

**Cumann Lúth Chleas Gael**  
**Coiste Chontae Mhaigheo**



**Comhthionól Bhliantúil**

**2017**

**De Domhnaigh 4u Nollaig**

**Ostan McWilliam – Chlar Chlainne Muiris**

**A tosnú ar 11.30**

# Clár

1. Opening address and remembrance of deceased members
2. Address of welcome by South Mayo Board
3. Óráid an Uachtaráin
4. Adoption of Standing Orders
5. Óráid an Chathaoirleach
6. Miontuairiscí 2016
7. Tuairisc an Runaí
8. Tuairisc an Chisteoir
9. Toghachán na hOifigí
10. Ruin
11. Presentation Health and Wellbeing “Healthy Club Initiative”
12. Presentation – New Coaching Structure – Mayo GAA.

# Standing Orders

In order that the proceedings of the Convention are carried out without delay, the following Standing Orders will be strictly observed.

1. The person proposing the Motion/Resolution or Amendment may speak for not more than five minutes.
2. All accredited delegates must not exceed three minutes.
3. The person proposing the Motion/Resolution/Amendment may speak a second time for not more than 3 minutes.
4. The chairperson may at any time consider a Motion/Resolution/Amendment has been sufficiently discussed and call on the proposer for a reply after which a vote must be taken.
5. With the consent of the Chairperson, a delegate may move 'that the question be now put' after which the proposer has spoken, a vote must be taken.
6. Any motion seeking to amend existing bye laws must have a majority equal to two thirds of those present and entitled to vote and voting.
7. Standing orders shall not be suspended for the purpose of considering a matter not on the Clar except by the consent of a majority of two thirds of those present and entitled to vote
8. The chairperson may change the order of items on the Clar with the consent of a simple majority of those present and entitled to vote and voting
9. A motion may be withdrawn with the permission of the convention.
10. Voting procedures as per Official Guide.

## **2016 MIONTUAIRISCI**

Cumann Lúth Chleas Gael Coiste Chontae Mhaigheo Comhthionól Bhliantúil 2016 was held in Hotel Ballina, and hosted by the North Mayo Divisional Board on De Domhnaigh an 6ú Nollaig 2015.

Chairman Mike Connolly opened the meeting and welcomed the delegates to Ballina for county convention. He asked Fr. Des Smith to lead us in prayer in remembrance of deceased members. Fr. Des prayed for all the deceased members of the GAA. He expressed sympathy to all those who had suffered bereavements in 2015.

### **Address of Welcome**

Padraig O Staundiún Cathaoirleach of the North Board welcomed the delegates and wished them well. He thanked all who had sponsored prizes in the raffle and those who had helped organise convention here in North Mayo.

### **Óráid an Uachtaráin**

Seamus Fléimeann said that it was great relief that the new team management were now in place. He thanked Pat Holmes and Noel Connolly and wished them well. He was disappointed with the no confidence vote, its history now but he hoped that it would never happen again. He congratulated our All Stars Lee Keegan and Aiden O Shea Diarmuid O Connor for the young player of the year award and those who were selected to represent Ireland in the compromise rules, Lee Keegan, and Aidan O Shea. He enjoyed his two year term and wished JP Lambe well on his retirement. Great to see all three county champions go on to win Connacht titles and in particular his native Ardnaree. He thanked all the officers and the administrator for their courtesy and wished all the new officers well.

### **Standing Orders**

Standing Orders were adopted on the proposal of Padraig Prendergast- Ballina and seconded by Richard Cosgrove – Kiltane.

### **Óráid an Cathaoirleach**

Michéal Ó Conghaile in his address as Cathaoirleach of the Coiste mentioned the following:

1. The success on the field County and Club.
2. The Coaching review and improvements.
3. The launch of the Health and Wellbeing.
4. The great work being done by the sub committees. He thanked JP Lambe for his marvellous contribution and wished Willie McGee a speedy recovery. The launch of the on-line lotto. The County Board draw.
5. He spoke of the New Croke Park proposals on fixtures and the issues with the U-21 grade.
6. He apologised to Pat Holmes and Noel Connolly for the way in which they were treated and he expressed his disappointment with the GPA input into the whole affair. He thanked own family, his fellow officers, MI. Cummins the Press, the Clubs, the North Board and the Hotel Ballina and all the sponsors.
7. The re negotiated loan the Sports Capital funding and the support of Minister Ring and Taoiseach Enda Kenny

### **Minutes**

The minutes of the previous convention were adopted on the proposal of Pat McManamon – Bourishoole and seconded by Ian McAndrew– Beal an Mhuiread.

### **Matters Arising**

There were no matters arising.

## Tuairisc an Rúnaí

An Rúnaí covered all the main events of the year.

1. Performance of the Senior Team in winning five Connacht titles in a row marvellous performance in the quarter final win over Donegal but the disappointing loss of an All-Ireland semi final replay to Dublin and the events that unfolded in the aftermath of that defeat.
2. The U-21 defeat again this year
3. The Minor Footballers defeat in the first round; The Minor Hurlers defeat in the All Ireland Final replay. The success of David Joyce in handball.
4. The Sub Committees.
5. Club championships and success of all the winners in Connacht.
6. The Sponsors
7. The retirement and the contribution of JP Lambe.
8. The future.

He thanked the staff at MacHale Park the divisional secretaries. The Connacht Council office, Croke Park, the Club Officers and his family and his fellow County Board officers. Also, all those who helped in any way in MacHale Park.

The Runai's report was adopted on the proposition of Phillip Irwin – Cill Chomáin and seconded by Pdraig Prendergast – Ballina Stephenites.

## **Tuairisc an Chisteoir**

The Cisteoir S P O Luan reported a surplus of €94,979 for the year up slightly on the previous year.

S P O Luan paid tribute to the Accountant - Michael McHugh, Auditor Mary McDermott Our Sponsors, The Gatemen, and all the Clubs of the County for the great work they have done throughout the year. He also thanked Willie McGee, Tommie Goonan and Tommie Maloney, who organised the Golf Classics and those who pay for signs around MacHale Park. He thanked all those who had in any way helped him in his 18 years as treasurer and said that he was delighted to be able to bring in a surplus every year during his term as treasurer.

The Treasurer's Report was adopted on the proposition of Ollie Dillon – Ballintubber and seconded by Michael Dan O Malley – Louisborough.

The treasurer and accountant Michael McHugh answered questions from delegates on his report.

All other reports were adopted.

## **Toghachán na hOifigí**

The following Officers were returned for 2016.

Patrún (Patron)	Padraic Ó Maolduin	Cathair na Márt
Uachtarán (President)	PS. MacGrath	Clár Clán an Mhurrís.
Cathaoirleach (Chairman)	Micheal Ó Conghaile	Maolla- Ceathrú Mór

Leas-Cathaoirleach (Vice Chairman)	Seamús Ó Thúaigh	Breaghbhuigh
Rúnaí (Secretary)	Uinsionn Ó Nearáigh	Muine Chónnalláin
Rúnaí Cunta (Assistant Secretary)	Diarmuid dé Búitlear	Crois Mhaoilina
Cisteoir (Treasurer)	Caoimhin Ó Tutháil	Tuáir Mhíc Éadaigh
Cisteoir Cunta (Assistant Treasurer)	Gearóid Mác Aódha	Maolla- Ceathrú Mór
Oifigeach Caidreamh Poibli (Public Relations Officer)	Pól Ó Cuinneáin	Na Daibheidí
Ard Comhairle (Central Council Delegate)	Sean Mac Éil	Cnoc Mór
Comhairle Chonnacht 1 (Connacht Council Delegate)	Padraic Mac Niochlais	Coillte Mach
Comhairle Chonnacht 2 (Connacht Council Delegate)	Gearoid Dé Burcá	Breaghbhuigh
Oifigeach Leanáí (Children's Officer)	Padraic Breathnach	Cluain Cearbain

Oifigeach Cultúra  
(Cultural Officer)

Seamús Mác Giobúin

Leathardán

Oifigeach Forbartha  
(Development Officer)

Liam Ó Ceallaigh

Cill Míodhna

Oifigeach Oilíuna  
(Coaching Officer)

Padraig Ó Cearúlláin

An Páirc

Just before the motions Stephen Rochford the newly elected senior team manager addressed the delegates.



## RUIN 2016

### Club Championship

1. With regards to Divisional Junior championships: If a player plays at a higher level than junior in the Mayo Championship players may not play junior at divisional level for the remainder of the year. (Davitts) **Withdrawn**

2. The two intermediate finalists be promoted to the senior championship and two teams relegated from senior championship to intermediate championship (Hollymount Carramore)  
Lost

3. The two junior A finalists be promoted to the intermediate championship and two teams relegated from intermediate championship to junior A championship.

(Hollymount Carramore) **Lost**

4. The two junior B finalists be promoted to the Junior A championship and two teams relegated from junior A championship to junior B championship. (Hollymount Carramore) **Lost**

5. Club Championships, (group stages), to be set in stone and not moved unless with unanimous agreement from club chairpersons. Reason: to allow club teams and players to plan accordingly. (Davitts) **Refer to CCC**

### Senior League

6. Motion 1:

Should a team/teams fail to field a team in either of the last two league games, they would be automatically placed in a relegation playoff with the team who finishes second from bottom (unless they finish bottom or second from bottom in regulation). (Kiltimagh) **Carried and referred to CCC**

7. Motion 2 if Motion 1 is defeated:

Should a team/teams fail to field a team in either of the last two league games, they would be required to play all league games in the following season away from home. (Kiltimagh)  
**Withdrawn**

8. That the Starred League system be disbanded in Division 1A and that County Players be made available to clubs for all league matches (Baile an Tobair) **Lost**

9. If the Starred League system is to continue, that County Management, through the County Secretary, e-mail the list of 26 players that are unavailable ahead of a League match by the previous Wednesday evening. (Baile an Tobair) **Carried and referred to CCC**

10. That the annual County Board Diary and Information Booklet when published contain dates for all Senior League and Championship matches (Baile an Tobair) **Referred to CCC**

#### Under 21

11. That the County discontinue the U21 Club Championship (Knockmore) **Lost**

12. The under 21 championship be a straight knock out. (Garrymore) **Lost**

13. The under 21 championship should be played during the months of June, July and August. (Garrymore) **Carried and referred to CCC**

14. Under 21 Championship group games to be played on the Tuesday/Wednesday following Senior/Intermediate Championship. (Davitts) **Referred to CCC**

#### Fixtures

15. County Board to outline a specific fixtures list on a rolling six week period which must not be broken. Reason: to avoid prolonged periods of time whereby club players, teams and managers are unable to plan ahead.(Davitts) **Carried**

16. Greater transparency between fixtures organisation and clubs at all levels regarding times of venues, times and change of officials. Reason: To allow club teams plan ahead. (Davitts)

Withdrawn

Other

17. 5 year rule for officers to be reviewed. (Garrymore) Withdrawn

18. Players that are sent off in games who are successful in their appeal should have the result published. (Garrymore) Referred to Hearings Committee

19. That the All Ireland Quarter Final and Semi Final match tickets are allocated to Clubs in the Competing Counties in the first instance prior to going on sale through retail outlets or on-line. (Ballaghaderreen) Carried

20. That all tickets for Connacht SFC Matches are allocated to clubs in the competing counties in the first instance prior to going on sale through retail outlets or on-line. (Ballaghaderreen) Carried

21. That the annual County Board Diary and Information Booklet when published contain the name and the club that referee is attached, along with his contact details (Baile an Tobair) Carried

Hurling

22. All Connacht Intermediate Hurling Semi Finals between Mayo Senior Hurling winners and Roscommon winners be played in alternative Mayo/Roscommon venues and not just in Athleague in Roscommon as is the case at present. (Tooreen) Carried

Bye laws

23. That Mayo County Board accept current bye laws (Mayo County Board) Carried

Presentations were made to retiring officers JP Lambe, Aiden McLoughlin and Jim Flemming. That concluded the business.

## Tuarascáil an Rúnaí – 2016.

This was a great year for the county. An All Ireland U-21 title, a win for our senior hurlers in the Nicky Rackard final an appearance in a second in a row All Ireland Junior final, runner up in an All Ireland U-21B hurling final and of course a great run by our senior footballers to reach and draw an All Ireland final only to lose out by the minimum in the replay. The year finished with success in Connacht for our Intermediate and Junior club champions and the senior and young footballers of the year coming to Lee Keegan and Diarmuid O'Connor.

The All Ireland final and replay were most demanding times for all involved and my thanks to Michael Cummins our administrator and the many volunteers who helped out in the office and elsewhere for the long hours and hard work during that time. Michael as always gave many hours to this county not alone at All Ireland time but throughout the entire year we really appreciate your work.

Losing any final is disappointing but Mayo have experienced such hardship in the past and have took it on the chin and moved on. We will do the same again this time and be ready for the challenge that 2017 will bring. We will not be looking back but be more eager to do what is necessary to eventually get over the line. Despite all the setbacks we would not swop and will rise again like before.

At the outset, I would like to thank my own family for their support and patience throughout the year. I would also like to thank my fellow officers Mike Connolly Kevin O Toole for all their help as well as John Prenty and his staff At Connacht Council and All the staff in Croke Park for their help and guidance all year.

I would also like to wish our president P.J. McGrath a speedy recovery and hope we can see him back to complete his term in good health.

I would like to express sympathy to all of the GAA families throughout the county who suffered bereavements during the year. The county lost some former players in 2016 some who had reached ripe old age but others who passed away far too young.

## **FBD**

Mayo started their 2016 campaign on January 3rd with a home game in MacHale Park and came away with a hard fought but a good win over NUIG. A goal from Kevin McLoughlin in the second half helped by a good spread of points from a hard-working forward line gave the new management a winning start 1-12 to 1-10. A week later they faced Sligo IT in Ballina again a good win thanks to some excellent point scoring by Mark Ronaldson and Keith Rutledge and a goal from Kevin McLoughlin. Mayo 1-16 Sligo IT 0-08. These two results left us needing a win in our final group game against Roscommon to secure a place in the final. The game was switched to MacHale Park as Hyde Park was unplayable. We got off to a bad start and lost Keith Higgins and Kevin Keane early on through injury. We were chasing the game all day but rallied well in the second half and were eventually beaten Mayo 0-10 Roscommon 0-13.

## **Allianz League**

Sun Jan 31<sup>st</sup> saw us open our 2016 National League with an away trip to Cork. Not a good day at the office as we did not get the start we were hoping for. We were completely over run by a much fitter Cork side who had a lot more work done than ourselves and were well beaten in the end Cork 1-18 Mayo 0-10.

Round 2 six days later saw Dublin come to Castlebar. On a wet, cold and windy night in front of over 10,000 spectators Mayo put in a huge shift in particular in the first half at which time they trailed by just a single point. In the second half Mayo found the going very tough but hung in but were eventually beaten by two points Mayo 0-07 Dublin 0-09.

In Round three Mayo had the long journey to Ballybofey to face league leaders Donegal. This was a fiercely contested contest and despite Mayo holding a slender half time lead and a second half penalty by Diarmuid O Connor we came out on the wrong side of a score line Mayo 1-12 Donegal 1-14. Played well for the most part but had nothing to show for in the end.

A week later again an away fixture this time to Clones for a very important fixture against Monaghan. On a beautiful day, Mayo played well for long periods and thanks to goals by Conor Loftus and Diarmuid O Connor found themselves up by five points in the second half. However, Monaghan reeled us back in and drew level, but two excellent long range frees by Robbie Hennelly secured a well-earned two-point victory in a very exciting game. Mayo 2-11 Monaghan 1-12. At last Mayo were off the mark.

Round five at home to Kerry and still in need of points, a crowd of nearly 13,000 expected a Mayo home win. Mayo started well but conceded a goal just before half time and another early in the second half and this coupled with thirteen wides left us on the wrong end of a score line Mayo 0-14 Kerry 2-12. Another disappointing result.

A two week break before our next fixture which was a huge game away to Roscommon. We really needed the points to ease relegations worries. Great concern as to whether Hyde Park would be playable as the pitch was holding lots of surface water due to heavy rain before the game. The referee deemed it to be playable and Mayo had the aid of a stiff first half breeze and totally dominated possession in the opening half but ten wides did not help our cause. Leading by two points at the break and a big second half required. Mayo hit a purple patch just after half time and an early goal by Evan Regan helped in securing a four-point victory Mayo 1-11 Roscommon 1-07. This game also saw the return of Alan Freeman, Paddy Durcan, Cillian O Connor and Alan Dillon.

The final round on April 3<sup>rd</sup> and a home fixture to Down. Everything hinged on this round. We could make a semi-final stay as we were, or be relegated, but we needed a win. The visitors had not secured any points in the league and were already relegated, but they were never going to lie down. Mayo started very well and had a point after just 30 seconds. We played some delightful football at times and Cillian O Connor scored a first half goal from the penalty spot after Evan Regan had been fouled. We were ahead at the break but not out of sight. Started well again in the second half and ended hanging on for survival going into injury time, Down having scored a cracking goal to leave just a point between the sides. Two late scores from Andy Moran and Evan gave us a three-point victory. Mayo 1-19 Down 1-16. Other results meant that we did not make the knockout stages but by score difference we held our Division 1 status which was a major priority. The full forward line hit 1-15 between them and we hit our highest score in the whole league had only four wides and yet only won by three points. Still we settled for the overall outcome and considering the disappointing opening we had to the league the finish was good. The weekend had been good results wise for the county as the Minors beat Sligo in the Connacht Minor league, the U-21 captured the Connacht title and the seniors beat Down in their last league game.



*BE THERE.  
ALL THE WAY.*

## **Championship**

The first championship game for Mayo in 2016 was an overseas trip to face London on Sun May 29<sup>th</sup>. This trip has always to be treated with caution and this year was no different. A huge crowd descended on Ruislip and Mayo came away with a solid win Mayo 2-16 London 0-08 . We were up and running and the team remained on for a few more days in a training camp in London and Many thanks to Cairde Mhaigheo there for their sponsorship of this camp.

Next up was a semi final in MacHale Park on Sat June 18<sup>th</sup> with old rivals Galway. Galway had been written off by the pundits and unfortunately, we got caught in the trap that had been laid wide open for us and suffered our first defeat in Connacht since 2010 on a score line of Mayo 0-12 Galway 1-12. The fourteen-match unbeaten run in the province had ended abruptly as Mayo never really got going. We did lead by four points into the second half but conceded a goal and a few points in a short space of time and a much hungrier Galway took the spoils. We now faced into new territory as we headed for the qualifiers. The first draw was kind to us as we got a home tie v Fermanagh on Sat July 9<sup>th</sup> at 3.30.

A crowd of over 12,000 turned up in Castlebar where Mayo got off to a shaky start and were very nervous and unsettled in the first half. Alan Freeman did get a first half goal but we were outplayed for the last period of the half and found ourselves down by six points at half time. A much better second half and a Cillian O Connor penalty saw us overtake Fermanagh and finish with a five-point winning margin Mayo 2-14 Fermanagh 1-12. We were in the 3<sup>rd</sup> round draw and that is what mattered.

The third-round draw was again kind to us as we drew Kildare and the home venue was very important. Sat July 16<sup>th</sup> at 7 pm in MacHale was a perfect time for this clash and a crowd of 14,875 witnessed a much livelier Mayo performance. Two first half goals by Evan Regan and a brilliant solo effort by Diarmuid O Connor gave us a commanding lead at the break. Although over ran at midfield for long periods we still pushed on even though we faced a slight breeze and finished comfortable winners Mayo 2-17 Kildare 0-14.

Again, we had made it to the next round which at this stage would be held at a neutral venue.

Round 4 of the qualifier and Westmeath were the opposition and we were back in Croke Park as part of a double header on Sat July 30<sup>th</sup> at 6pm. A dull start but a great purple patch mid-way through the first half where goals by Jason Doherty and a penalty by Cillian coupled by a great performance by Donie Vaughan gave us a half time lead of eight points. However, we lost our way for long periods in the second half which allowed Westmeath back into the game. We were holding on to a three-point lead going into injury time but a strong finish where Aiden O Shea got a third goal and we finished Mayo 3-15 Westmeath 1-14. We had reached a quarter final for the sixth year in a row.

The quarter final on Saturday Aug 6<sup>th</sup> was part of a treble header in Croke Park as Mayo Juniors played their All Ireland at 2pm and Mayo Seniors faced Tyrone in the first of the Senior games at 4pm. Tyrone had been hotly tipped to go all the way this year. This was going to be a huge challenge for Mayo and the opening exchanges were tight and tense. Mayo matched them all the way and were level at half time, thanks to a fine opening score by Aiden O Shea and some excellent kicking by Cillian o Connor.

The second half was an arm wrestle all the way with nothing much between the sides, Lee Keegan was having a powerful game and kicked two crucial points one with the left and one with the right. The last few minutes were most stressful as Mayo held a slender one point lead. The fourth official held up the board to tell us that there were four additional minutes. Mayo tried to hold possession but Tyrone still got three chances to equalise during that period but each one just drifted wide and in the final passage of play David Clarke had to race from his goal line to collect a pass that saved the day for Mayo as if he missed the ball Mayo were certainly out.

However, Mayo had the bit of luck and made their sixth semi-final in a row with a one point victory Mayo 0-13 Tyrone 0-12.

The semi-final in Croke Park on Sun Aug 21 at 3.30 brought new opposition in Tipperary. They had caught the imagination of the nation with their surprise but full deserved and comprehensive victory over the Connacht champions Galway in their quarterfinal. Tipperary had been chalking up huge scores in their march through the championship. This was a tricky assignment as Mayo did not know what to expect. The game started slowly and Tipp had got into a three-point lead mid-way through the first half and Mayo were finding it hard to get into their rhythm. This all changed when Keith Higgins turned over a Tipp attack and in a free-flowing swift move up the field Jason Doherty struck a much-wanted Mayo goal and from there till half time Mayo were superb. They lead by six points at the break having kicked a further seven points thanks to the on-fire Andy Moran who landed four beauties. Mayo lost their way for long periods in the second half and amazingly had only scored one point for close on twenty minutes, by which time Tipperary had closed the gap to two points. A fortuitous but well taken goal by Conor O Shea got us going again and Mayo finished with a five-point winning margin. Mayo 2-13

Tipperary 0-14. The prize was great as we now had reached another All Ireland final but with a low-key semi-final win.

A long run in to the final was an advantage, as we had a week longer to prepare than our opposition Dublin, who had overcome Kerry in a tough semi-final. Mayo were totally written off for the final as the Dubs were unbeatable according to most pundits.

The usual frenzy for tickets ensued but as always, all genuine supporters were looked after and the Final on Sun Sept 18<sup>th</sup> was an amazing affair. No one could have predicted the outcome as Mayo threw everything at the Dubs, and unfortunately had their bits of misfortune early on where we conceded two goals and on a very wet day in Croke Park we found ourselves trailing by five points at the break.

Again, Mayo threw all into the second half and some amazing scores from Andy Moran and others and Mayo drew level. That effort took its toll and Dublin went ahead again by three points, but Mayo never wilted and seven additional minutes were a relief to all Mayo fans as we needed every one of those and Cillian O Connor hit a superb equaliser right at the death to earn a well-deserved replay. Mayo 0-15 Dublin 2-09.

The replay on Sat October 1<sup>st</sup> at 5pm was another massive day.

Again, a full house witnessed a bruising battle where Mayo could not be faulted in their efforts but came up short by the minimum Mayo 1-14 Dublin 1-15. Heart break again. The loss of Lee Keegan in the first half through a dubious black card was terrible as he had just kicked a super goal and was really on his game. The loss through injury of Donal Vaughan at half time was another huge blow as he was really going well. After all that we were only in arrears by the minimum at the break.

The second half brought more drama and we lost goalkeeper Robbie Hennelly through another black card and conceded a goal from the resultant penalty. We seemed to struggle a little from there to the finish and even though we led by a point in the second half we were never able to push on. We came within a point of Dublin with the finish line in view and had a difficult chance from a free near the end to bring the game to extra time but alas it was not to be and so the dream died again with lots of pain and nothing to show for a monumental effort from all involved.

An All Ireland final loss is painful and a Final replay loss is equally painful but we have no option but to continue and keep trying. Massive thanks to Stephen Rochford and his management team and to all the players for a highly entertaining year that came out of nowhere.

## **Scór**

Congratulations to Aghamore Scór na nOg set dancers who captured back to back All Ireland titles in Killarney on Jan 31st and indeed to the young groups from Kilfian and Ballycastle who represented the county at the Novelty act and quiz on the same day and acquitted themselves very well.

James Gibbons and his cultural committee have plugged away all year and had encouraging number of clubs attend their recent launch of Score 2017.

## **Club Officer Meetings**

County Board Officers held a meeting with the Club officers for two nights in mid-February taking clubs from the North and South on the first night and finishing with the East and West clubs. Officers were briefed on Insurance, Club fixtures, the new proposals for Coaching within the county and how to submit club details for the booklet using their own special password.

## **Leo Kenny Cup**

Congratulations to Charlestown Sarsfields who captured the Leo Kenny cup with a hard fought one point victory over Mountbellew/Moylough in MacHale Park. This game was played as a curtain raiser to our championship qualifier on July 9<sup>th</sup> against Fermanagh.

## **Hurling**

Our hurlers got up and running much earlier this year and only lost out on winning the Connacht league in January on score difference. They followed that with a four-point win over Donegal in the opening round of the Allianz League. A similar victory away to Meath in round two, and round three was another away game this time in Newry where the beat Down by 20 points to 16. A home win against Wicklow would have saw Mayo make the league final but unfortunately Wicklow prevailed on the day and both Mayo senior hurlers and footballers suffered home defeats on March 13<sup>th</sup>. A victory in the final round away to Armagh would have also secured a final place but again Mayo failed to win and so any chance of a league final went out the window. Nevertheless, it was a good solid league performance overall.

A good win in the opening round of the Nicky Rackard Cup to Tyrone saw a home game against Armagh in the second round. Again, a comfortable victory in Ballina where Mayo scored 22 points left the team straight through to a semi-final two weeks later.

The semi-final was an away fixture in Letterkenny v Donegal on May 21. This was a fruitful journey and Mayo came home with a four-point victory and a place in the Nicky Rackard final in Croke Park.

In the final they again faced Armagh and had a great battle before securing a famous four-point victory. Congratulations to all involved on a marvellous victory and the icing was put on the cake a week later when a victory over Derry secured promotion to the Christy Ring championship for 2017.

Later in the year the U-21 team reached the All Ireland B final in Thurles but were beaten by a fine Meath side. Many of these lads had been part of the U-21 football team who had captured the All Ireland in the spring.

## **Club Champions**

Our junior champions Ardnaree Sarsfields marched through the Connacht Championship at the end of 2015 and qualified for the All Ireland semi-final against Ulster champions Rockcurry of Monaghan on Jan 24<sup>th</sup> in Carrick On Shannon. A fantastic first half display paved the way for Ardnaree as they finished comfortable winners 0-11 to 0-06 to reach the decider in Croke Park. At the same time on the same day our intermediate Clun champions

Hollymount Carramore who had also come through Connacht in style were in Breffni Park Cavan playing the Down and Ulster champions in their All Ireland semi-final. Again, a good solid display saw them through to the final to have two Mayo club teams representing their county and province in Croke Park on Club Final day.

The Intermediate and Junior Finals clashed with Mayo v Dublin in the Allainz League on Feb 6<sup>th</sup> which was unfortunate but unavoidable. In the Junior final Ardnaree found themselves up against a powerful and skilful Templenoe side who were Kerry and

Munster champions. Ardnaree kept well in touch in the first half but in the end, were well beaten by a much better side. Hollymount Carramore were also up against a Kerry side Cahersiveen. They put up a great show but in the end lost by six points. Both Mayo sides can be very proud and although both fell short on the final day they had a great and enjoyable journey along the way.

Our senior club champions Castlebar Mitchels had defeated the All Ireland club champions Corofin in the Connacht final and faced club specialists Crossmaglen Rangers of Armagh in the All Ireland semi-final in Breffni Park on Sat Feb 13<sup>th</sup>. Despite a poor start that at one stage saw Castlebar in arrears eight points to three, they recovered well and in a rip roaring second half they finished one point winners 0-13 to 0-12 to qualify for the final on St. Patrick's Day. All the hopes of the county rested on the shoulders of the Mitchels men as they faced the Dublin and Leinster champions Ballyboden St. Enda's. We had hoped that the losing streak of Mayo teams in All Ireland club finals in 2016 would come to an end. However, Castlebar got off to a bad start from which they never recovered and were well beaten in the end by 2-14 to 0-07. A very disappointing result and although excellent to see all Mayo Club champions reach All Ireland finals in the one year very disappointing to see all three fall at the final hurdle.

## **County Competitions**

For the first time, ever our senior and intermediate finals were staged under lights on a Saturday evening and this proved to be a great success. For both finals, we also invited the four clubs to bring along some older members as part of the social inclusion initiative. This project was greatly appreciated by the clubs, as was the invitation extended to all schools both primary and post primary in the four club areas. The Bourishoole team of 1966 who won the County Intermediate title fifty years ago were honoured and introduced to the crowd at half time.

The Mitchels retained their county senior title with a win over the surprise finalists Knockmore. Castlebar had overcome neighbours Ballintubber while Knockmore accounted for a fancied Breaffy side in the other semi-final. There was a tight run in for the concluding stages of our senior and intermediate championships and we needed an extension of one week from Connacht Council to have a team ready for the prelim round. I would like to thank both Connacht Council and the Sligo champions Tourlestrane for their cooperation and patience. The Mitchels did account for Tourlestrane in the first round in Markievicz Park but the long season finally caught up

on them as they eventually succumbed to Corofin in the semi-final at MacHale Park but only after extra time.

Westport took the Intermediate title with a win over Kiltimagh. This despite having to play a semi-final replay the previous Wednesday evening. They followed up their County final victory with wins over Monivea/Abbey of Galway in the Connacht semi-final and Ballinamore in the final to add the Connacht title to their county crown.

Louisburgh came through the Junior Championship after a late late winner against a spirited Ball team in the county final.

They had a big win over Oranmore of Galway in the Connacht semi-final and followed that victory with a Connacht final win over Creggs of Roscommon. They like Westport finished the year on a high having added the Connacht title to their County win. We wish both Louisbourg and Westport well in their All Ireland semi-finals in the new year.

The Junior B title went to Knockmore and the C title went to Bourishoole after wins over Davitts and Kilmaine respectfully.

Ballinrobe took the U-21 C title with a win over Kilmeena while the A final will be between Aghamore and Claremorris.

Our leagues were keenly contested and most positions for promotion or relegation went down to the final rounds. The availability of starred games in our leagues gives us a great chance to complete our league programme in reasonable time, if this was not in place then we would struggle to complete the programme. Congratulations to all winners. The concession of games, although rare, is disappointing especially last round matches that could affect overall standings.



## U-21

The early season tournament for our U-21 team was the North-West League which got underway on Jan 2<sup>nd</sup> with an away game to Fermanagh in Beeleek. A good opening half saw Mayo lead at the break by 1-06 to 0-02 thanks to a goal from Sharoise Akram. Mayo continued the good work and gave the new management a win on their first day out. Mayo 1-11 Fermanagh 0-08.

The second round was a week later in Crossmolina against Sligo. Another good solid performance. Mayo 3-12 Sligo 0-04.

Round three and Mayo took the long trip to Letterkenny to play Donegal. A great game even though Mayo had fielded a changed team from earlier rounds. A point down at half time and doing fine. However, they slipped into a five-point deficit in the second half and the game seemed to be slipping away. The introduction of Liam Irwin among others got things going and a super goal by Liam Irwin had Mayo back to a point and the equaliser soon came, and a draw looked the likely outcome but Donegal got a superb winning point from a tight angle and the final score was Mayo 1-08 Donegal 1-09. The top two teams reached the final which meant that these teams had qualified for the final a week later at the Sligo Centre of Excellence. On a wet and windy day Mayo and Donegal served up an exciting final despite the conditions. Mayo were in a good position with only minutes to go thanks to a first half goal from Barry Duffy but conceded an unfortunate goal and a point and the game finished level. Extra time could not separate the sides either and a replay was needed after a 1-09 apiece final score.

The championship was next up for Mayo and a Connacht semi-final against Leitrim in Carrick on Shannon. Mayo had a shaky start and could easily have conceded an early goal or two but eventually they found their rhythm and two first half goal gave them a four-point cushion at the break. Further goals in the second half left a comfortable win. Mayo 4-12 Leitrim 0-15.

The Connacht Final was away to Roscommon, but Hyde Park became unplayable and the game was transferred to Markievicz Park in Sligo on Sat April 2<sup>nd</sup>. If Mayo had got off to a shaky start in the semi-final, well then, their opening twenty minutes in the final was horrid and Mayo found themselves six points down and struggling. We could not get our hands on the ball and Roscommon were flying. Trailing by five at the break, Mayo had just about hung in. A spirited recovery in the second half saw Mayo grind away at the Roscommon lead and a fine save from Matt Flanagan kept us in the game. Mayo did not hit the front until two minutes from the end after a goal from Liam Irwin. This gave them great heart and although Roscommon equalised Michael Plunkett sent over the winner two mins into injury time and Mayo held on for a famous but unlikely victory to capture our first Connacht U-21 title in seven years but a very sweet one.

The All Ireland semi-final was played in Tullamore on Sat April 16<sup>th</sup> where Dublin were the opposition. Mayo got off to a whirlwind start and thanks to a goal from Diarmuid O Connor went 1-4 to no score up early in the first half and held a five-point lead at the break. Dublin really took over in the second half and steam rolled Mayo. The half time lead was soon swallowed up and Dublin went four points up well into the second half. However, Mayo hung in and a massive man of the match performance from Diarmuid O Connor along with everyone else lifting their efforts for the last few minutes saw Mayo draw level with a fine effort from Matthew Ruane. Conor Loftus ended up with a pressure free to win the match and he duly obliged and Mayo snatched a famous victory equally as sweet as their Connacht final win. Mayo 1-15 Dublin 1-14.

The All Ireland Final was next up on Sat April 30<sup>th</sup> and Ennis was the venue and Cork the opposition. This venue held happy memories for Mayo people as exactly ten years earlier and against the same opposition Mayo last won the U-21 Final.

Mayo had the slight wind advantage in the first half and had lots of possession in the opening half. However, their accuracy was slightly off and as the fourth official held up the board showing three additional minutes at the end of the first half Mayo had slipped into a three point deficit Cork 0-7 Mayo 0-4. In those three-dramatic additional three minutes, no one could have predicted what would happen. Sharozie won back possession out in the corner and some quick movement of footwork and hand passing saw Diarmuid O Connor palm the ball in at the far post for a much-needed goal. This was followed by an excellent Liam Irwin free and right on the stroke of half time the same player blasted the ball to the Cork net for an excellent second goal to leave Mayo four points up at the break. The second half was a tense affair and very stressful on Mayo fans as the lads battled bravely on the pitch. An early Conor Loftus goal kept the momentum going, but Cork hit back and got a goal of their own from a miss hit 45 after a fine Mattie Flanagan save. Coming down the home straight Cork drew level and the momentum seemed to be with them but fair play to this bunch of Mayo players the hung on and capitalised on a Cork mistake and again Conor Loftus rattled the net to give us a precious three-point lead. The deal was sealed when Liam Irwin won the race between himself and the goalkeeper and his flick trickled across the line into an empty Cork goal even though it seemed to take an age to get over the line. This set scenes of major jubilation among Mayo subs and supporter's.

Cork did manage another point but soon after the final whistle blew. Mayo had captured a much needed All Ireland final victory Mayo 5-07 Cork 1-14.

Mayo fans were ecstatic and unbridled joy could be seen on every Mayo face as Stephen Coen lifted the cup in front of a field full of happy Mayo people. This victory meant so much to the followers and they soaked up their joy for over an hour afterwards as the player's management and fans all mingled on the pitch to live the moment.

Congratulations to this fine bunch of players, to their families and their excellent management team of Michael Solan, Joe Keane and John Ginty. Yes, they had bits of luck along the way and you need that, but they made a lot of their own luck by their attitude and by hanging on in their even when things were not happening for them. An all-round team performance and they carried on from their minor success three years ago, despite several changes along the way, where new faces joined the panel and grew into their roles as the year progressed. We wish them all well and hope that they can now go on and achieve even greater things.

## **Junior**

The management team of Sean McLoughlin, John Gilmore, Frank McHale and Padraig Costello took on the task of preparing a Mayo junior team for the Connacht Championship defence with an opening game against Sligo in Enniscrone on Wed May 4<sup>th</sup>. Playing into a stiff breeze in the opening half Mayo started well and held a few points cushion at the break thanks to a Ronan Malee goal and some fine free taking by Darren Coen. With the breeze to follow Mayo would have been expected to push on, but they lost their way for long periods in the second half and Sligo pounced for a goal going into injury time to put them into the lead by a point. Only then did Mayo wake up and a swift move down the field saw Cormac Reape pulled down for a penalty and up stepped Darren Coen to hammer passed the Sligo keeper and restore Mayo's advantage. A final point saw us finish with a three-point victory Mayo 2-08 Sligo 2-05. We had just about survived opening day and had reached the Connacht final.

The Connacht final v Galway on May 22<sup>nd</sup> was a curtain raiser to the Leitrim v Roscommon senior championship game in Carrick On Shannon. This was a very close affair all through and very little separated the sides all through and the teams were level on twelve occasions throughout the game. A great second half goal by Ronan Malee and some excellent points from man of the match Darren Coen kept Mayo in touch. This was very like last year's final and really came down to the wire. Mayo had to defend stoutly for the last few tense moments but held on for a famous victory Mayo 1-11 Galway 0-12. Sean McLoughlin and his management team had put back to back Connacht Junior titles together which was a fantastic achievement.

The All Ireland semi-final did not come until July 23<sup>rd</sup> and again Tullamore was the venue. This time it was Wexford the Leinster champions who were the opposition. The team had undergone many changes from the Connacht final win with some players

having emigrated but the inclusion of many of the U-21 players who were now available was a great boost. Mayo had a slight breeze in the opening half and some excellent scores from Darren Coen and Andrew Farrell kept Mayo in front. Wexford had the better of the exchanges in the beginning of the second half and had taken the lead before Mayo hit for two goals by subs Conor Keane and Sean Gaughan and held on for a six-point victory Mayo 2-10 Wexford 0-10. Mayo had qualified for a second successive All Ireland and the same opposition Kerry awaited us.

The opportunity arose again this year to play the All Ireland Junior final in Croke Park as Mayo seniors had qualified for the quarterfinal on the same day. The junior final was the curtain raiser to the senior game on sat Aug 6 at 2pm. Eddie Doran was unable to start due to illness and this was a huge disappointment for him personally. Mayo held their own early on and had held a two-point lead thanks to some fine shooting by Conor Keane and Darren Coen. Kevin Gibbons was also doing well in the half forward line. Mayo then lost mid fielder Peter Collins through a knee injury and for the last ten minutes of the first half Mayo totally lost their way and conceded 2-08. This left a huge mountain to climb in the second half. To their credit, Mayo did put up a fight and thanks to second half goals by Micheál Forde and Robert Holian they hauled back the deficit to three points. However, Kerry finished strong and again there was heartbreak for this Mayo Junior team as they were eventually beaten Mayo 2-11 Kerry 2-18.

Thanks to Sean McLoughlin as manager and his backroom team of Nigel Reape, Frank McHale, James Kelly and John Gilmore. Sinead McLoughlin also did tremendous work all year and the medics of David Walsh and Mark Gallagher all played their part. Thanks also to the many players who made themselves available. I hope it was an enjoyable experience for all and although a second Connacht title in a row was achieved it was unfortunate that an All Ireland eluded us each year.

It was a wonderful journey overall and the whole squad and management enjoyed it immensely.

## **Stewards**

Gerry Burke as chief steward in MacHale Park and his team of reliable troops had a very busy year. The test of their dedication and willingness was borne out when the Connacht final replay was fixed for Castlebar. This was the day after our evening home qualifier v Kildare. On Sat July 16 at 7pm 14,875 patrons were in MacHale Park. This was just the day before the Connacht Final replay Galway v Roscommon, where 15,960 spectators attended. This meant that the whole place had to be cleaned and ready for 3.30 on Sunday, Well done to all the stewards and extra volunteers along with local underage teams who really showed what can be done as they had MacHale Park in splendid condition in less than two hours after the Kildare game ended. Many thanks to all involved in the cleanup operation. Many stewards had put in long hours on Saturday and were back again on duty at 11 am on Sunday. It was also great to see many Mayo stewards in Pearse Stadium for the Connacht Minor and Senior finals.

## **Connacht Colleges**

St. Muredach's and St. Colman's qualified for the championship semi final but a strong Summerhill side easily overcame Muredach's in Cloonacool on Feb. 13<sup>th</sup>, while a week later St. Colman's suffered a defeat to St. Attracks in the other semi final. They had earlier victories over Roscommon CBS and St. Gerald's while St. Muredach's had accounted for St. Jarlath's.

In the B Championship Rice college beat Presentation College Headford in the semi final but St. Louis Kiltimagh were defeated by four points in the other semi final by Holy Rosary Mountbellew.

Both Ballyhaunis Community School and Our Lady's Belmullet lost their senior C semi-finals to Galway opposition.

There was a good result for a Mayo school in the D final where St. Joseph's Charlestown had a big win over Dunmore Community School. They followed this up with an extra time one point victory in the All Ireland semi-final against Limavaddy in Ballyshannon to qualify for the All Ireland final. An excellent performance in the All Ireland Final on Wed March 16<sup>th</sup> in Newtownforbes against the Dublin and Leinster champions gave the Charlestown boys a deserved two-point victory and above all an All Ireland title. It was just reward for the school and in particular to their coach Brendan Prendergast the great Tourmakeady clubman. He had toiled for many years looking after teams in St. Joseph's with limited success but this victory will more than make up for all the defeats.

## **Cairde Mhaigh Eo**

Thanks again to all our loyal members of Cairde Mhaigh Eo. The success of this body means now that there is a waiting list of people who wish to join.

### **Sponsorship**

Thanks to all our sponsors. Elverys continue to be our main sponsors Trenlaur Catering, Breaffy House Hotel, Smyth's Toys, Eddie Egan Jewellers JJ Burke and O'Neill's. To all others who supported us throughout the year and especially at Final time both U-21 and senior. Many individuals and companies continue to support the Board with their signs around MacHale Park and we are most grateful for their support and to Tommie Goonan for his efforts in ensuring that they do.

### **Sub Committees**

Our sub committees continue to carry out their duties with great efficiency. The CCC under Seamus Tuohy had a busy year. They had several meetings especially towards the year end when games were coming thick and fast. The fact that Mayo were going successfully through the Back Door coupled with the success of our U-21 team and the Hurlers left it very difficult to put an accurate programme in place. Despite all these obstacles the committee had Mayo champions ready for their Connacht clashes and for this they deserve great credit. Bord na nOg with Con Moynihan as chair and Dermot Butler as secretary had a very busy season and thanks to them and their committee for their continued efforts.

The hearing committee under the chairmanship of Mattie Joe Connolly and Tod Mahoney as secretary has served this county well over the past year and thanks to them and the various others who attended different hearings throughout the year. I think they gave everyone who came before them a fair and just hearing.

The PR group under Paul Cunnane keep the public informed on all our activities and are continually updating details especially on match days.

Many hours have been spent in the past year on restructuring the whole area of coaching. Pdraig Carolan and his committee along with the main officers have come up with a whole new lay out for the county and with additional couches now in operation this should give a better coaching service across all regions.

Willie Kelly in Development and Padraic Walsh as Children's officer have worked hard in their role's all year.

Thanks to our Connacht Council delegates of Paddy McNicholas and Gerry Burke and to Sean MacHale at Central Council.

The health and wellbeing committee under Seamus Tuohy have continued to progress and this year they again have come up with many new initiatives and have more in store for the next few months.

## **Volunteers**

The GAA has its traditions based on the volunteer and that continues today. Thanks to the many club and county officers who carry out their duty for club and county and the GAA on a voluntary basis often with little help and lots of critics. Thanks also to the many stewards and other volunteers who gave so willingly of their time both in the office at peak times and around the grounds of MacHale Park to ensure the smooth running of all our games and activities for the year. To Phil Heneghan our grounds man for the way that the pitches and dressing rooms are maintained and to Sean Julian and his staff for their courtesy and efficiency always.

Thanks to the media both national and local for their coverage of all GAA activities.

Thanks also to all our referees, officials, gate men, clubs and Divisional Boards and delegates without whose cooperation we would not survive.

## **All Stars and Footballer of the year**

Congratulations to our All-Star recipients David Clarke in goal and defenders Brendan Harrison Lee Keegan and Colm Boyle. David and Brendan received their first awards while Lee Keegan now becomes the most decorated Connacht All Star winner with his fourth award. Lee had a wonderful year for club and county and every one shared in the delight as he was chosen as Footballer of the Year for 2016 and Diarmuid crowned a great night for Mayo as he picked up the Young footballer of the year for a second time.

Our hurlers too had great success on the same evening as Kenny Feeney Cathal Freeman Brian Hunt and Joe McManus were chosen on the Nicky Rackard team of the year with Kenny picking up the player of the year in that category.

## **The Future, New Championship Proposals and The Mark**

The Ard Stiúrthóir Padraic Duffy towards the end of the year published a discussion document on new format for the intercounty championship. There will be a motion at Congress to bring about these proposals. There is no doubt about it, if it comes to pass the intercounty season will be more condensed. This will give counties more time for their domestic championships, but only after the intercounty programme is complete, if a county is involved at the latter stages. My big fear is that if the club fixtures must be completed within the calendar year this will force the opening rounds of the Provincial club championships to start earlier and if that were to happen then the window for our club championships will be narrowed greatly. We will have to place our own fixture programme into the new template and see how it fits before we can make a full judgement. As it looks now clubs will have no championship football during June July and August and this has been their big lament every year. On the other hand if a definite programme can be put in place after the All Ireland Final, well then that might be the answer.

The Mark in Gaelic football will be introduced into all competitions from the start of 2017. This would have been a wonderful idea some years ago, when goalkeepers drove kick outs as far away from goal as possible, but Gaelic football has changed in recent years and now possession is very important and we all see that in games either at club or county level most kick outs are not even crossing the 20-metre line. I would love to see that the results of the introduction of The Mark would have every kick out crossing the 45-metre line and being caught cleanly and the catcher being rewarded with a free kick, but I don't think it will have the desired effect on the modern game.

Finally, I want to wish you all health and happiness for the year ahead, on and off the pitch. Sonas an t-Seisiúir oraibh agus go mbeirimid go léir beo ar an am seo arís le cúnamh Dé.

Uinsíonn Ó Nearaigh (Rúnaí)



## **Competitions Control Committee Report 2016**

2016 was again a successful year after several challenges for the CCC having to contend with, including two Senior All Irelands, All Ireland Jnr football final, All Ireland U/21 football final, Nicky Rackard Hurling Final and U/21 B hurling final, not forgetting we contested Snr Club Championship, Intermediate Championship Final and all Ireland Jnr Championship Final in the early part of 2016.

The task of getting our Senior and Intermediate Football Championship and County Senior Hurling Final completed brought its own challenges, but thanks to good weather, excellent pitches, co-operation of all clubs and the extremely hard working CCC committee, we reached a successful conclusion. Looking back most would agree we had an excellent finish to the championship, playing both our Senior and Intermediate Finals under lights in MacHale Park. This brought excitement and a festival like atmosphere to, what is the biggest evening of our domestic calendar.

I would also like to acknowledge the input of our finalist's clubs in our Social Initiative and it was great to see so many new faces the not so young who came along and enjoyed our biggest domestic evening of the season, those who probably more often would enjoy listening or watching our games from their deserved chair but on this occasion made a huge effort to be present with us at our finals this year. Again, many thanks for coming along and we hope to see you back on future occasions.

Our leagues were competitive throughout the season with the addition of our starred games, which allowed us to progress the leagues throughout a congested inter county season. Bringing these leagues to a conclusion has not been easy but credit must go to our leagues that often competition went down to the last round to decide who went up or went down.

Our Championship in all grades went well, even though fixtures came forward at pace from our final round robin rounds to conclusion of championship, round 3 on weekend of the 9<sup>th</sup> October and a final three weeks later on the 29<sup>th</sup> October 2016, Congratulations to our Senior Champions Castlebar Mitchell's who beat Knockmore, Westport Intermediate Champions who beat Kiltimagh on the same evening, Louisburg junior A Champions who beat Balla, Jnr B winners Knockmore B who beat Davitts B, and Burrishoole B who beat Kilmaine B in Junior C Final.

### **Connaught Club Champions:**

We congratulate all clubs in the Connaught Championship, Louisburg - Connaught Jnr Champions, Westport - Connaught Intermediate Champions and Castlebar Mitchell's who were beaten by Corofin after a heroic battle in extra time.

We wish both Louisburg and Westport every success in the concluding stages of the All Ireland series and I have no doubt they will have the support of both County and Province in their goal.

### **Mayo Hurling:**

Mayo Senior Hurling:

Four teams participated in Genfit Senior Hurling League –

- Castlebar Mitchell's Hurling,
- Ballyhaunis,
- Tooreen,
- Westport.

Competition was played on a round robin basis; Westport beat Tooreen in the final to win the competition for the first time in eleven years.

### **Senior Championship (Sponsored by Jim Hogan Couriers Westport)**

Competition played on a round robin basis with the top team Ballyhaunis going straight through to the final with Tooreen and Castlebar second and third placed teams contesting the semi-final which was won by Tooreen. Westport withdrew from the competition after one game.

County final between Ballyhaunis and Tooreen was played on the 23<sup>rd</sup> October ended in a draw after an exciting and close game. The replay on the 30<sup>th</sup> October was again a close affair with Ballyhaunis winning the replay by three points.

### **Connaught Intermediate Championship:**

Ballyhaunis played Oran Roscommon on Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> November 2016 under lights in the Connacht Centre of Excellence in Began. Ballyhaunis put on a strong display to record a good win and qualify for the final.

The final against Ahascragh/Fohanagh Galway was played on the 6<sup>th</sup> November in Athleague. The game ended in a draw after extra time. The replay on the 13<sup>th</sup> October was won by Ahascragh/Fohanagh.

### **U/21 Hurling Championship:**

Two teams participated with Tooreen defeating Castlebar Mitchell's in the final.

### **U/21 Football Championship.**

We debated U/ 21 championship in 2015 convention. I am now sure at this stage we have all digested the 'Discussion Paper on player overtraining and Burnout' and the GAA fixture Calendar published in 2015, again we ask ourselves do things need to change!!

I asked those questions in my report in 2015:

- Is the competition relevant within our calendar?
- Are players enjoying the competition?
- Is it played at the right time of year?
- Are we ignoring the fact that come November players are exhausted after a long season and looking for a break from club football?
- Do players need a break before college commitments commence- Often after a long season of both club and county football, a new college football season is just beginning that may take the successful colleges up to February/ March of the following year to complete

Unfortunately, again I am reminded of those situations in 2016. We have done a lot of work around player welfare over the last couple of years, again I pose the question do we need to change?

If we, as a unit, are committed to both the future of our club younger footballers and to the long-term welfare of our players, would we serve this group of players better by replacing our minor summer league with a U/20 summer league played as a starred competition? I am sure delegates have their own thoughts on the issue. With the change to an U/20 inter County competition in 2018, opportunities will present for a serious look at this grade taking into consideration our current situation and the protection of player welfare going forward.

Changing the current structure may open the door for additional games at a more favourable time of year where issues with pitches, weather, player's unavailability, player welfare, all may be removed within reason

We cannot continue to ignore the issue. What is certain is that if we do nothing there is only one result that no resolution will come to our present situation. It is only by trying something new that we will prove whether we are right or wrong.

### **Player Welfare and our Fixture Calendar:**

Player Welfare is an important part of our Fixture Calendar. We have made positive steps. There is a willingness to change, us as fixture makers, you as delegates and clubs, and above all your players must recognise what is best for them. We cannot ignore the problems that may risk our players or their future within the game, decisive action often is required and if we all work together we will protect our youth and have a healthy involvement in our games.

We are not alone in this. Our problems are no different to any County. While to an extent we have coped well as a county with the success of us inter county squads, fixture congestion must be addressed throughout the organisation and we must give full recognition to our club players as a core element of our organisation.

### **Proposal on revised format of the All Ireland Senior Football Championship:**

Not a meeting goes by throughout our calendar year where we don't discuss fixtures, a core responsibility of our committee. Come end of season we review our fixture calendar and ask ourselves:

1. Does our fixture calendar offer our club player a fair schedule of games?
2. Can the fixture calendar be done better?
3. Has the situation of overtraining and burnout improved?
4. Are there too many domestic competitions within our domestic calendar?
5. Should we be asking Club players to play in competitions in the month of November and December or should we give them a deserved rest?

Progress over the years has been made on improving the situation but the structure of the Inter County football and subsequently our Club championship remains unresolved.

There is no doubt our club players deserve better, we ask ourselves does the latest proposal give our club players a fair schedule of games throughout the calendar year?

I think we all agree the new structure will provide a valuable enhancement of the inter county championship by way of eight additional competitive matches contested by the country's eight best teams.

The group games will increase interest at the peak of the GAA season and provide a much wider opportunity for the country's best teams to display their skills and the qualities of Gaelic football in summer playing conditions. But for our club players just to say "that a perfect solution probably does not exist" while at the same time to say that our club players deserve a fairer schedule of games is somewhat confusing.

As a CCC like many more across the Country all we ask for is a calendar that gives you something to work with.

Championship round robin is to be played on an uncongested calendar where players can exhibit their skills while the sun shines high in the sky. We ask for three dates to facilitate our round robin games along with a quarter final date. Semi-finals and finals can normally be catered for post exit from Championship.

- To do this Club Championship dates must be set in stone for all Counties irrespective of front door, back door entry. Does the proposal give us this?
- Reduce the length of the Senior Inter County Championship and intervals between matches, has this opened the door for club games?
- Schedule provincial games on same weekend across provinces, will it happen?
- Play different Competitions within Province on same weekend i.e. Jnr Saturday, Senior Sunday or in cases of dual Counties Hurling Saturday with Football Sunday or vice versa, has some thought been given to this?

Too often we have heard that our clubs and therefore our club players constitute the essence of the Association. If so let us continue to work towards a reasonable solution for club players in giving them a realistic schedule that is timely and achievable

### **CCC Committee:**

I would like to thank the CCC committee for their time effort and support during the year, Vincent Neary Secretary, Paul Cunnane PRO, Eugene Connolly Hurling, Vincent Walsh, Mike King, John Walker, Shane Quinn, Michael Daly Referee Coordinator, Dermot Butler Asst Secretary and Con Moynihan Bord N'Og Chairperson. There were many new faces in 2016 but all took to the task and did excellent work on the CCC.

I would also like to congratulate our PRO Paul who has done tremendous work as a PRO in his first year and received a national award for his work. He is held in high regard by his colleagues throughout the country.

To Michael Connolly, our Chairperson, an inspiration to us all. His leadership, work ethic to this organisation is huge. Congratulations on everything you achieved in 2016 and I look forward to working with you in 2017.

### **Mac Hale Park and the Grounds Committee:**

I also would like to thank the MacHale Park staff for their work and support, Michael Cummins our administrator who does a huge amount of work and an invaluable support to several committees. No one within the organisation can thank this man enough for the work he does.

Gerry Burke for all his organising of stewards for all our games in MacHale Park and his work as chair of the grounds committee, a credit to you Gerry and all your committee. A special word also to Phil and Darren Heneghan and Michael Prendergast for your dedication and the amount of hours in keeping our grounds and Park in tip top shape.

I would also like to thank Paraic Murray and his paramedical staff, who was present at all our games in MacHale Park, a service that is critical in today's game. Thanks to both James Rock, Event Controller for all our big events in MacHale Park and Gerry Henry, Health and Safety Rep, again both vital requirements in today's games.

### **Refereeing:**

I would also like to thank the referees for their support during the year, to Michael Daly Referee coordinator, well done Michael, you have been a great source of support, A lot of work goes into recruiting and training referees and we have made a lot of progress in the last number of years in this area.

Reporting is still an issue for us and again it was a priority area in 2016 to record accurate referee match day reports. We must get better in protecting the interest of our games, players and the association. The drive to get it better will continue in 2017.

Again, this year I must mention Sean Maceil both as Central Delegate and his continued support in the recruitment and training of referees; he was given an added task in 2016 of monitoring our fixtures and results. All I can say whatever part of the world he was in, he continued to keep his eye on the ball.

***Seamus Tuohy***  
***Chairperson,***  
***CCC.***

**Hearings Committee Report 2016**

**Mayo Hearings Committee 2016**

Mattie Joe Connolly (Chairman) (Garrymore)

Tod O'Mahony (Secretary) (Kiltimagh)

Joe McVeigh (Bohola Moy Davitts)

Pat McManamon (Burrishoole)

Anthony Egan (Bonniconlon)

John Kilgallon (Ballaghadereen)x

Sean Higgins (Davitts)

In 2016, the Hearings Committee sat on 9 occasions to hear cases against Clubs/Officials and against players. Those hearings involved 11 players and there were a broad range of alleged infractions that came before the Committee. The infractions alleged against players ranged from dangerous play to using abusive language to a referee or other match official to playing while ineligible. Included in those 9 hearings, were 5 occasions where charges were also laid against Clubs/Officials by the CCC. In relation to the Clubs/Officials, these were hearings relating to the award of matches, disruptive conduct of players, playing an ineligible player on the part of team officials.

In relation to the hearings involving Clubs/Officials, 3 of those resulted in the infractions being considered proven and in 2 cases the charges were considered not proven.

Of the 11 cases heard by the Committee involving players, 10 resulted in the infractions being considered proven. 8 of those resulted in a penalty being imposed. The penalty being at least the minimum penalty appropriate to the infraction as set out in the Official Guide 2016. 2 cases resulted in no penalty as the Committee felt the infractions were inadvertent on the part of the players.

In 1 case the Hearings Committee substituted a black card for a red card. In relation to that case, in which the Committee felt the charge levelled by the CCC was not proven, the player's case was supported by video evidence.

**We would ask Clubs to note the following:**

It is not the job of the Hearings Committee to re-referee a game. Arguments that a referee made a mistake need to be supported by compelling evidence. Rule 7.3(aa)(vi) of the Official Guide Part 1 2016 (page 134) states:

***"A Referee's Report, including any clarification thereto, shall be presumed to be correct in all factual matters and may only be rebutted where unedited video or other compelling evidence contradicts it"***

Where a player/official seeks a hearing on any proposed infraction, the Hearings Committee must decide if there is compelling evidence to contradict what a referee sets out in his report. It is up to the player/official to satisfy the Committee that there is such compelling evidence to contradict what the referee says in his report. Apart from technical arguments, the main form of compelling evidence sufficiently persuasive for the Hearings Committee is video evidence and it is very difficult to succeed before the Committee without such video evidence.

### **Procedure for Players seeking Hearing**

In the first instance a player, subject to disciplinary action, has a penalty proposed by the Mayo Competitions Control Committee (CCC). A player can accept that penalty or, if he is dissatisfied with what is proposed, he can seek a hearing on the charge before the Hearings Committee. Once a player seeks a hearing then no decision has been made. It is then a matter for the Mayo Hearings Committee to decide on that charge, Once the Hearings Committee makes its decision then, if the player is not satisfied, the player has the right of appeal to the Connacht Hearings Committee. That is the end of the process but the player, if still dissatisfied with the decision on appeal, may seek to have the matter referred to Arbitration and that will go to the Disputes Resolution Authority (DRA) of the GAA.

The Mayo Hearings Committee strives to ensure that anyone who opts for a hearing is afforded fair procedures and the Committee is mindful of the many decisions that have been made by the DRA and other decision making bodies determining that anyone seeking a hearing in GAA disciplinary matters is afforded a fair hearing and fair procedures appropriate to the disciplinary action.

The Committee also seeks to ensure that if a player/official/club is subject to disciplinary action then that charge is dealt with as expeditiously as possible and any unjustified delay is avoided.

Tod O'Mahony  
Hearings Committee

Secretary

## **PR Committee Report 2016**

2016 was without doubt a busy year on the club & county front and as a first-time officer of Mayo GAA it was certainly a steep learning curve. As PRO, I was involved with six All Ireland finals as the Mayo Senior Football & Hurling teams, the Mayo Junior football team, as well as the Mayo U21 Football and Hurling teams all reached All-Ireland finals in 2016.

The year began with U21's who during the months of March & April gave some excellent displays against Leitrim, Roscommon & Dublin before reaching the pinnacle, an All-Ireland title. On April 30<sup>th</sup> in Cusack Park, Ennis they overcame Cork 5-07 to 1-14 to win Mayo's first All-Ireland U21 title since 2006. Led by manager Mike Solan in his first season in charge and captain Stephen Coen they were an excellent squad to deal with throughout the year. Mike, Stephen and all on the players always made themselves available to the media before and after games and this was very much appreciated by myself and all concerned. This is a fine group of men and I'm sure most whom will go on to represent Mayo at senior level. In fact, some of this group graced the senior team with distinction in 2016.

The hurlers also had a busy year. They just missed out a league final before going one better to win the Nicky Rackard title in Croke Park when they beat Armagh 2-16 to 1-15. JP Coen and his players were very generous with their time to the media throughout the season. As was Mayo U21 manager John Waldron and his players in the lead up their U21 B Hurling final appearance in Thurles. I also want to thank Brendan Geraghty who coordinated the media events with the Senior & U21 hurling teams.

The Mayo Junior team also made it to Croke Park as they lost to Kerry in the Junior All Ireland final. On the media & team news front manager Sean MacLoughlin was very easy to deal with and always made himself available regardless of the result & I would like to thank him for that.

The Mayo senior football team took up most my time during the 2016 season. The games come thick and fast once the national league starts in February and there was no down time until after the All-Ireland final replay on October 1st. As someone who was new to the role to see close the level of work and commitment these players put in through the season is phenomenal.

The Mayo GAA supporter's open night took place on Friday May 20<sup>th</sup> in Elverys MacHale Park. This was the event which meant the championship was looming into view. We decided on this

night as the players were training later that evening so it meant all the squad would be present. This was also 8 days out from our first game against London so it ensured there was plenty of interest on the night.

There was a crowd of approx. 150-200 people in attendance on the night. The event ran for one hour with all players posing for photos and signing autographs. We received merchandise from Croke Park for the night which included posters, pens and wristband all of which were well received. Next stop championship.

After a win in London next up was Galway. The Connacht semi-final defeat to Galway in Castlebar meant all plans had to be readjusted and it was going to have to be a route through the qualifiers if Mayo were going to win Sam Maguire. This was an eventful run as more games mean more media inquiries & events to deal with. However, win those games they did and Mayo made it back Croke Park.

After wins over Westmeath, Tyrone & Tipperary it meant Mayo were back in an All-Ireland final for the first time since 2013. The All-Ireland final appearance would mean a large-scale press night which of course we had to do twice as radio, TV, print and online media all headed west to hear the views of Stephen Rochford and his players. Unfortunately, the result was not to be but I know this bunch will be back bigger and better in 2017. Thanks to Stephen Rochford and all the players who were very open to dealing with me and the media and I want to thank them for allowing such access all season long. I also want to thank Liam Horan (Mayo Senior Team Media Coordinator) who helped me coordinate many events throughout the season.

Most journalists do an excellent job covering our games and we are lucky to have such good people covering Gaelic games. This was very evident in the run up to the All-Ireland final when several local papers produced some excellent supplements covering every detail of the Mayo senior team and the games they played throughout 2016. The same could also be said for some of the coverage by the national publications.

However, in the lead up to the All-Ireland final replay there was a well-orchestrated media campaign to blacken Lee Keegan's name and I would be disappointed that many media outlets chose to take the bait in the lead up to the replay. Lee Keegan has just won his fourth All-star as well as been named GAA/GPA Footballer of the Year. This recognition was due to his excellent displays throughout the national league and championship. He is one of the finest footballers the county has ever produced. To see him depicted in this way before the biggest game of his

career was very unjust. Ultimately this campaign worked as Lee was black carded wrongly before half time in the replay.

On the social media front things, have never been busier with more forms of communication than ever. Mayo GAA are one of the leading counties when it comes to social media and this allows us to provide access to fans locally and globally at the touch of button. Our Facebook, Twitter and Snapchat accounts continue to grow and I would encourage fans of all ages to 'log on' to stay up to date with all the latest Mayo GAA news.

Unfortunately, social media has its downsides and this is very evident when Mayo lose a game or when a player makes a mistake. It is unfortunate that so-called fans can hide behind a keyboard and level abuse at players or at Mayo GAA without recrimination. People must realize once they post a comment it is out there in public domain for all to see. A lot of good work goes on unnoticed behind the scenes by a lot of people on a voluntary basis in clubs and across Mayo GAA. The level of criticism levelled at the Mayo senior team by 'experts' in print and on TV should be questioned. Players & management were targeted in sustained attacks. The basic principle of fact checking was not carried out while blatant lies were used to depict people in a way that undermines them. This should not be allowed to continue. Constructive criticism I accept is part and parcel of the job but not to the level that the Mayo senior team were subjected to in 2016.

I accept Mayo GAA do not always get things right and as a member of the CCC I can understand how club players get frustrated with club's fixtures. However, planning the club season is an extremely difficult task with games involving the Mayo Footballers and Hurlers, the Mayo Juniors, the Mayo U21 Footballers and Hurlers and the Mayo minors to be fitted into an already packed calendar. I would hope that those so-called experts would offer solutions to the problems we encounter not just continue to criticize and blame everyone but themselves. If the problem of club fixtures is to be resolved, then the fixture makers nationally must work in conjunction with counties and clubs to have a streamlined national calendar where clubs are given dates they must adhere to.

2016 also saw the relaunch of [mayogaa.com](http://mayogaa.com). This was possible through the generous sponsorship and hard work of all in 21<sup>st</sup> Century, Castlebar. Many days and hours of work went into the new website and the end result is a testament to all their hard work. There are still some aspects to be worked on with new features to be rolled out for 2017.

On a personal level I, would like to thank the Gaelic Writers Association for honoring me as their as PRO of the Year for 2016. This was an unexpected award for me to win and it is an honor for myself and my family. I was delighted to accept the award from Ard Stiúrthóir Páraic Duffy and Gordon Manning chairman of the GWA.

I must also mention to my predecessor Aiden Mcloughlin who did an excellent job as Mayo GAA PRO for the previous five years. Throughout 2016 he always took my call when I needed his advice and wisdom.

I would also like to thank the PR Committee of Alan Prendergast, Shane Quinn, Darren Heneghan, and Brendan Geraghty without whom a lot of what happened in 2016 would not be possible. I would also like to thank James Rocke for his excellent work in compiling match programmes and for all his help with all games in Elverys MacHale Park.

#### Paul Cunnane – Mayo GAA PRO



A rounded rectangular box containing three social media icons and their corresponding handles. On the left is the Twitter logo with the handle @mayogaa. In the center is the Facebook logo with the handle @OfficialMayoGAA. On the right is the Snapchat logo with the handle @mayo\_gaa.



[www.mayogaa.com](http://www.mayogaa.com)





## **Bord na nOg**

### **Turaisc an Rúnaí 2016**

On the field of play 2016 was a successful one for Mayo GAA. Our Senior team came within a kick of a ball from winning the All-Ireland title. The Senior's got off to a sluggish start in both league and championship but dusted themselves down to retain their Division 1 League status for 2017. They went the backdoor route in the championship and gave us some tremendous performances during the year. Our U-21 team captured the All-Ireland title this year, who will forget that day in Ennis. It was a great achievement by these bunch of lads, congratulations to them and the Management.

We started our Bord na nÓg season in March and concluded it with the U-15 A final on 20/11/15. There were 48 finals played from U-13 right up to minor. The workload is considerable on Bord na nÓg and great credit must go to the Executive Committee who organise more than 1,500 games throughout the year. Credit must also be given to the club coaches, players and parents whose co-operation is very much appreciated by the Board. Most of our finals were played in McHale Park and to Phil Heneghan I say a big thank you for having the pitch in splendid condition. Some of the Finals had to be played away from McHale Park and to those Clubs who willingly allowed their grounds to be used by the Board I say a big thank you. The Chairman and Secretary met with all Divisional Boards at the start of the year. The feedback from these meetings is always positive and it gives us a chance to listen and take on board what the clubs have to say. There were some unsavoury incidents at games throughout the year, I

would again appeal to players, coaches and parents to show greater respect for each other and put a stop to this kind of behaviour.

### **Féile**

Our Féile competition kicked off in April. Castlebar Mitchels won the A competition and Aughamore won the B competition. Thanks to all the clubs that took part in the competition.

### **Go Games**

The leagues were generally successful and great credit must go to the coaches who look after players at this age. Parents are also to be thanked because without their support the leagues would not function. The whole idea of these games is to develop the young players skill set. A “Go Games” review meeting was held recently in McHale Park and the results of this review will enable us to adjust parts of the competition in line with the wishes of clubs. Bord na nÓg carried out a census in conjunction with all clubs regarding player numbers. Again, the results of this census will enable us to plan for the future.

### **Under 13**

The U-13 competition ran during the months of August and September. This competition is important as it forms a guide for Bord na nÓg for the U-14 competitions the following year as it aids us in determining group placings. Congratulations to the League winners Ballina Stephenites, Ballintubber, Castlebar C and Westport B.

### **Under 14**

The U-14 competitions ran throughout the summer months with plenty of games for all clubs involved. It was disappointing that Béal an Mhúirthead withdrew their team from the

championship, the reason being that they were not willing to play in the A Championship. They finished 5<sup>th</sup> in the League and in my view they should have taken part in the Championship. It was a long season in this age bracket but thankfully all competitions were completed. All finals were keenly contested with some high scoring games to boot. Westport completed a league and championship double. Congratulations to all the league and championship winners. Some Clubs are struggling with players at this level which in itself is a worry and needs to be addressed.

### **Under 15**

The competition itself began in early September and was completed in full on 20/11/16. Westport won Division 1 of the league. Béal an Mhúirthead won Division 2, Ardnaree Sarsfields won Division 3 with Eastern Gaels winning the Division 4 title. This competition can prove difficult to run as the kids are back at school and the evenings getting shorter so great credit is due to players and management alike for participating in and completing the competition in full.

### **Under 16**

At U-16 level this year we had 5 Championship groups and 6 League groups. Westport were the standout team at this level winning the A Championship and Divisions 1 and 6 of the League, well done to them. Eight other clubs won titles at this level including Mayo Gaels, The Neale, Aghamore, Erris St Pats, Carras, Louisburgh, Ballyhaunis and Cill Chomain. This is probably the most difficult group to run smoothly as there is a cross over between U-14 and U-16 and between U-16 and Minor. It is therefore incumbent on all clubs to fulfil fixtures on their allotted dates, as postponed games can lead to a backlog of fixtures or more worryingly clubs end up conceding games which is of no benefit to young players.

## **Minor**

The Bord Officers met with the County Minor Management at the start of the year to discuss the fixtures programme. I believe that this was a very worthwhile exercise as it eliminated many of the problems that were encountered in the past. The Minor competitions can prove difficult to run as breaks have to be taken for the leaving cert exam and the competitions also have to work around the County Minor teams involvement in the championship. There are also a growing number of Minor players who are an integral part of their clubs senior team set up. No team completed a league and championship double. Congratulations to Castlebar Mitchels, Ballyhaunis Gaels, Ballintubber, Westport, Sarsfield Shamrocks, Burrishoole, CLG Acla, Ballina Stephenites, Béal an Mhúirthead and Davitts all of whom took home silverware this year. In relation to our County Minor team, they acquitted themselves well in the Connacht Minor League after a heavy opening round defeat to Roscommon. They reached the Connacht Final where they lost out narrowly to Galway on a day when it was difficult to play football due to the inclement weather. Their Championship came to an end when they were defeated by Kildare in Tullamore. Enda Gilvarry has stepped down as County Minor Manager. I would like to thank Enda for all the work he has done with Minor teams over the past number of years. Enda can be justifiably proud of his term as Minor Manager during which time he won an All-Ireland title in 2013. I would also like to thank his backroom who worked tirelessly throughout the year. The incoming Minor Manager and his backroom team are wished well for 2017.

## **Conclusion**

I believe that Bord na nÓg can be happy with the progress that was made during the year. As I've said in this report and in last years, player numbers within clubs are a cause for concern, especially clubs in rural areas. This problem must be addressed in the very near future and cannot be put on the long finger anymore. As we move forward I believe that amalgamations will become a reality.

To the Coaches, both full time and part-time under the stewardship of Pádraig Carolan and Billy McNicholas, I thank you all on behalf of the Bord for all the work that you have done throughout the year. To the people involved in Cúman na mBunscoil and Hurling, thank you for all the work you do.

To the referees who officiated at our games throughout the year I say a big thank you. To the Journalists and Photographers who give us excellent coverage throughout the year again a big thank you. To our Chairman Con Moynihan, thank you for all your hard work during the year. To Sean MacEil and Michael Daly, thank you for all your help throughout the year. Thank you also to County Chairman Mike Connolly, Secretary Vincent Neary, Vice Chairman Seamus Tuohy and P.R.O. Paul Cunnane. To the Executive Committee and members of the C.C.C. thank you for your assistance during the year. To you the club delegates thank you for your cooperation throughout the year. I believe that if both the Clubs and Bord na nÓg continue to work together it can only improve the standard of underage football and the overall fixtures programme within the County.

**Diarmuid de Buitleir**

**Runai**

**Bord na nÓg**

## Bord na nÓg Finals 2016

<b><u>2016 Football Competitions</u></b>	<b><u>Winners</u></b>	<b><u>Runners-Up</u></b>
<b><u>Minor A Championship</u></b>	Castlebar Mitchels	Sarsfields Shamrocks
<b><u>Minor B Championship</u></b>	Ballyhaunis Gaels	Beal an Mhúirthead
<b><u>Minor C Championship</u></b>	Ballintubber	Ballaghaderreen
<b><u>Minor D Championship</u></b>	Westport St Patricks B	Tuar Mhic Éadaigh
<b><u>Minor League Division 1</u></b>	Westport	Balla
<b><u>Minor League Division 2</u></b>	Sarsfield Shamrocks	Louisburgh
<b><u>Minor League Division 3</u></b>	Burrishoole	Bonniconlon
<b><u>Minor League Division 4</u></b>	CLG Acla	Tuar Mhic Éadaigh
<b><u>Minor Summer League 1</u></b>	Ballina Stephenites	Balla
<b><u>Minor Summer League 2</u></b>	Béal an Mhúirthead	Knockmore
<b><u>Minor Summer League 3</u></b>	Davitts	Hollymount/Carramore
<b><u>Minor Summer League 4</u></b>	CLG Acla	Ardmoy McHales
<b><u>U-17 League Division 1</u></b>	Knockmore	Louisburgh
<b><u>U-17 League Division 2</u></b>	Bonniconlon	The Neale
<b><u>U-16 A Championship</u></b>	Westport St Patricks	Carras
<b><u>U-16 B Championship</u></b>	Mayo Gaels	Charlestown Sarsfields
<b><u>U-16 C Championship</u></b>	The Neale	Burrishoole
<b><u>U-16 D Championship</u></b>	Aghamore	Kilmeena
<b><u>U-16 E Championship</u></b>	Erris St Pats	Crossmolina Deel Rovers
<b><u>U-16 League Division 1</u></b>	Westport St Patricks	Ballaghaderreen
<b><u>U-16 League Division 2</u></b>	Carras	Park/Kellogues/Crimlin
<b><u>U-16 League Division 3</u></b>	Louisburgh	Davitts
<b><u>U-16 League Division 4</u></b>	Ballyhaunis	Hollymount/Carramore
<b><u>U-16 League Division 5</u></b>	Cill Chomain	Eastern Gaels
<b><u>U-16 League Division 6</u></b>	Westport St Patricks B	Knockmore B
<b><u>U-15 League Division 1</u></b>	Castlebar Mitchels	Claremorris
<b><u>U-15 League Division 2</u></b>	Béal an Mhúirthead	Charlestown Sarsfields

<b><u>U-15 League Division 3</u></b>	Ardnaree Sarsfields	Bonniconlon
<b><u>U-15 League Division 4</u></b>	Eastern Gaels	Islandeady
<b><u>U-14 A Championship</u></b>	Westport St Patricks	Claremorris
<b><u>U-14 B Championship</u></b>	The Neale	Mayo Gaels
<b><u>U-14 C Championship</u></b>	Ballintubber	Naomh Pdraig
<b><u>U-14 D Championship</u></b>	Eastern Gaels	Park/Kellogues/Crimlin
<b><u>U-14 E Championship</u></b>	Erris St Pats	Ardnaree Sarsfields
<b><u>U-14 F Championship</u></b>	Castlebar Mitchels B	Ballina Stephenites B
<b><u>U-14 League Division 1</u></b>	Westport St Patricks	Claremorris
<b><u>U-14 League Division 2</u></b>	Bohola Moy Davitts	Kiltimagh
<b><u>U-14 League Division 3</u></b>	The Neale	Hollymount/Carramore
<b><u>U-14 League Division 4</u></b>	Davitts	Charlestown Sarsfields
<b><u>U-14 League Division 5</u></b>	Eastern Gaels	Tuar Mhic Éadaigh
<b><u>U-14 League Division 6</u></b>	Westport St Patricks B	Claremorris B
<b><u>U-14 Féile A</u></b>	Castlebar Mitchels	Westport St Patricks
<b><u>U-14 Féile B</u></b>	Aghamore	Swinford
<b><u>U-13 League Division 1</u></b>	Ballina Stephenites	Claremorris
<b><u>U-13 League Division 2</u></b>	Ballintubber	Ballaghaderreen
<b><u>U13 League Division 3</u></b>	Béal an Mhúirthead	Erris St Pats
<b><u>U-13 League Division 4</u></b>	Castlebar Mitchels (C)	CLG Acla
<b><u>U-13 League Division 5</u></b>	Westport (B)	Ballina Stephenites (B)

## **Mayo Health and Well Being Committee Annual Report 2016**

Our Health and Well Being Committee are in our third year of existence following its initial set up in March 2014. This came on the back of a motion which was passed at the GAA Annual Congress in Derry in 2013 putting in place a rule for the requirement of every county board to appoint a Health & Wellbeing sub-committee.

Committees are now in place right across the 32 counties and they are tasked with assisting the county board and the county's clubs in identifying and responding to the health and wellbeing needs of their members.

It also involves signposting to and partnering with relevant national and local agencies who can provide services that may be of use to our members. Here in Mayo GAA we have been working with mainly the HSE, Mayo County Council and Sports Partnership, CROI, Mayo Mental Health Association, Family Life Centre and Mayo Suicide Liaison Project on various projects that may be of assistance to our members at some stage in their lives.

### **Achievements in 2016 as a committee:**

#### **1. Wellness Information Board**

This was one of the successful projects undertaken by our Committee. This idea stemmed from supporting clubs and their members within the county to be able to identify appropriate services and supports available both at local level and National level.

I just ask that all clubs now have in place two Wellness Information Boards- One in the home dressing room and the other positioned in a visible place in their club where members, supporters and family members have easy access to it.

#### **2. Safe Talk training**

Safe Talk Training involves learning the first steps in recognizing persons with thoughts of suicide and connects them with suicide helping resources. We have held training sessions for Club Health and Well Being Officers in both Castlebar and Ballyhaunis in January of this year, attended by up on 40 club members from clubs across the County.

#### **3. RESPECT Initiative**

Promoting the Respect Initiative was part of all our games in 2016 and we will be working with clubs in maximizing the success of this project in 2017.

#### 4. **Player Welfare**

Another important initiative for the Health and Well Being Committee is to support the structures that have made a positive impact on the welfare of our footballers. A lot of work has been done in this area in 2016 putting in place structures for our County, ably supported by Dr Sean Moffat lead Medical Officer, Liam Moffat lead Physio and Cathal Cregg lead Strength and Condition coach from Connaught Centre of Excellence. All energies are being directed to player welfare, injury surveillance, prevention protocols, age appropriate conditioning and training loads and management of sports concussion. This work will continue to be high on the agenda again for 2017.

#### 5. **Mayo U15 and u16 GAA Camps**

Mayo Mental Health Association supported by their Development Officer Niall Dunne, who is a member of our Health and Wellbeing Committee along with Padraic Carolan who works for the HSE and is also Head of the Coaching Officers for Mayo GAA again organised a Mayo GAA Football and Hurling Easter Camp in March 2016 for U16 players in County Mayo.

The three-day camps covered various topics and the young people got to attend various workshops which covered:

- Mental Health Awareness, (Mental Health Ireland)
- Awareness around Dyslexia,
- Mind space,
- Concussion.

The Health and Wellbeing football and Hurling Camp catered for all 90 players and 13 coaches. As the three days proved hugely successful we will hope to plan a similar event again for 2017.

- **#littlethings campaign**

Connacht GAA Council and the HSE were delighted to announce their partnership with the Mayo Health and Well Being Committee to support #Littlethings & the 'Connecting for Life'

strategy at the launch of the 2016 Connacht GAA championship at the Connacht GAA Centre of Excellence on the 11<sup>th</sup> of May 2016. The aim of the campaign is to reduce deaths in our communities by suicide.

#littlethings is a positive mental health and wellbeing campaign. This campaign was first launched by the HSE's National Office for Suicide Prevention in October 2014. The #littlethings campaign highlights the importance of protecting and nurturing one's mental health.

Agreed Message for our Connaught Semi Final Mayo V Galway in Machale Park was "**Reduce your Alcohol and a Great Night can become a Good Morning**", We distributed over 5,000 wallet cards with our agreed message and other contact details. We had volunteers from Mayo MHA, Mindspace youth panel, GROW, Health and Well Being Officers in Clubs in Mayo and our own County Committee to help us with this task.,

#### **Plans for 2017:**

- All clubs within the County to appoint a Health and well Being Officer at their AGM's for 2017
- Club Health & Wellbeing Officer Recruitment and training. Training scheduled for 17<sup>th</sup> January 2017 in Machale Park @ 7.00pm
- SafeTALK training 31<sup>st</sup> January 2017 @ 7.00pm in Machale Park.
- Adapting a Critical Incident Response Plan for our county at our 1<sup>st</sup> County Board Meeting in 2017.
- Support Phase 2 of Healthy Club Project. Two Clubs took part in 2016 namely Aghamore and Achill. We are targeting one new club in each division to participate in 2017.
- Continue to promote the Social Initiative Project, arrange a trip to Croke Park Museum for a group of supporters within the County, provisional date TBC on Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> March 2017.
- We will also pinpoint several events throughout 2017 where we will work with Clubs in inviting our older supporters to special GAA events throughout the year.

The continued support of our clubs will be required to ensure that these health and wellbeing action plans are implemented at club level for the betterment of our members, clubs, and the entire county. I urge you to make sure that your club has an active health and wellbeing sub-committee in place to drive this work and that you open regular lines of communication within your club on health and wellbeing issues.

We appeal to all clubs coming up to AGM's that if they have not already a Health and Well Being Officer in place, we request each club to give it full consideration.

This person will act as the link with our County Health & Wellbeing Committee and will be the point of contact within the club for any relevant promotions or activities. Again, they will not be expected to be a 'counsellor' for the club, but an interest in health and have a willingness to drive this agenda in their club. We can assure you that you get the full support of the Mayo Health and Wellbeing Committee and the newly formed National Health & Wellbeing Committee.

Miser le meas,

Seamus Tuohy Mayo GAA Community & Health Chairperson,

Sean Maceil: Secretary Mayo GAA Community & Health

## **Membership**

The Members of the Mayo GAA Health and Well Being Subgroup are:

Seamus Tuohy (Chairman)	086-1716252
Sean MacEil (Secretary)	086-1733419
Niall Dunne (West Mayo)	087-1274040
Mary Coen (South Mayo)	086-0532181
Dermot Butler (North Mayo)	087-6219843
Paraic Walsh (West Mayo)	087-2233094
Con Moynihan (East Mayo)	087-9439843
Brendan Geraghty (Hurling)	086-0693096
Michael Gavin (West Mayo)	087-9717516
JJ Costello (South Mayo)	

[http://www.mayogaa.com/contentPage/351891/health\\_and\\_well\\_being](http://www.mayogaa.com/contentPage/351891/health_and_well_being)

## **Coaching Report 2016**

2016 proved to be a very busy year for everybody involved in coaching in Mayo.

After our under 21 footballer's All-Ireland success, our minors reached the All Ireland Quarter final while our Ted Webb teams won the Cup and Plate competitions respectively.

Our secondary school's teams performed well with pride of place going to Charlestown given their national success while the return to Elvery's McHale Park of the Cumann na mBunscol finals was very welcome.

The launch of our coaching initiative was another milestone following two years of preparation.

### **Coaching Initiative**

Mayo GAA would like to thank Mayo County Council for their support with this initiative. A financial commitment on an ongoing basis supported by Mayo, Connacht and National GAA meant we could recruit two full time coaches in 2016.

This now means that we have a full-time football coach allocated to each division within the county and a full-time hurling coach allocated to the 10 hurling clubs.

These coaches will work with schools, clubs and academy teams within their individual areas.

The initiative which was launched centrally in Castlebar in November was also shared with representatives from each division within the county.

Further elements of the initiative include the development of nursery programmes in clubs, Friday night football in winter months, club mentoring programmes, skills programmes and approved S&C programmes. The availability of more coaches to support clubs by way of Coach the coach and club mentoring programmes is a crucial part of the initiative.

## **Cul Camps**

In 2016 we had another record attendance with 5,532 young people attending. This was an increase of nearly 1,000 on 2015 and equates to 37% of that cohort of population in County Mayo. Diarmuid O'Connor acted as a very popular ambassador and nearly 100 students were employed as part of the programme.

## **Academies**

Our academy teams continued to perform well in all competitions. In football, we have four teams at under 14 level, 2 at under 15, 2 at under 16 and 1 at under 17. In hurling we also have academy teams from under 13 to 17 level (see hurling report). Last winter we introduced an S & C and skills programme in 4 locations namely Crossmolina, Claremorris, Swinford and Castlebar on a weekly basis from November to March. Congratulations to the West/South Ted Webb team on their success in winning this year's competition and to the East/North on winning the shield.

## **Coach Education**

Take up of the various courses on offer continues to grow with over 500 participants in 2016. A feature of our Primary Teacher programme was also the high uptake which resulted in us having to provide two programmes this year.

## **Under 12 skills**

Well done to both Ballintubber and Eastern Gaels who performed very well at the Connacht finals

following a very competitive divisional series of competitions in Mayo.

## **Club Mentoring Programme**

This programme which involves three visits by our coaches to an individual club was developed by the Connacht Council of the GAA.

To date 10 clubs in Mayo have availed of this. On the first night, a workshop is held involving club coaches, the second night consists of a review and the third night focuses on where the club need/want to get to in the future.

### **Academy Camps**

Once again, we could hold our Mental Health themed camps at Easter for our under 16 Academies and at Halloween for our under 14 and 15 groups due to the kind sponsorship received from the Mayo Mental Health Association.

My sincere thanks to all our coaches at academy level, at club level and at school level for their continued

support and hard work during the year

### **Hurling Coaching Report:**

#### **Schools Coaching:**

Hurling Coaching is administered by Adrian Hession with the help of club volunteers and teachers in the county. 34 national schools and 4 secondary schools are involved. Cuman na mBunscoil and Mayo Post Primary competitions are run by Adrian Hession.

#### **Goal to Work Hurling Coaches:**

Coaching in Ballyhaunis, Ballina, Castlebar and Claremorris National Schools delivered by Goal to Work coaches. Training, mentoring and equipment for the coaches provided and run by Adrian Hession. Over 1,200 children received hurling coaching from these initiatives.

**Development Squads:**

U13, U14, U15 and U16 Development Squads administered by Adrian Hession with the help of academy coaches. In total over 160 hurlers involved. 52 coaching sessions and 16 blitz days attended by Mayo GAA Hurling teams. Easter Academy and Halloween Academy camps ran also this year. Seven players went forward to Connacht U16 Academy.

**Coach Education:**

Award1 and Foundation Hurling Courses delivered by Adrian Hession and Peter Cassidy. In total 75 hurling coaches qualified at Foundation Award Level and 9 coaches certified at Award1 Level through our hurling coaching system in 2016.

**Cuman na mBunscoil:**

Thirty-Four National Schools taking part in Cuman na mBunscoil Hurling and Camogie this year. In total 23 blitz days held in 2016 at Cuman na mBunscoil level. Over 3,500 children with access to hurling coaching and games from Cuman na mBunscoil activities.

**Summer Camps:**

Two stand-alone hurling camps in 2016 in Caiseal Gaels and Tooreen which drew 140 hurlers. Hope to increase in 2017.

**Skills Competitions:**

U14 Feile, U12 Skillstar Team and U10 skills competitions run in 2016. Thanks to Thaigh Morley (Bord na nOg Secretary) for helping run these. Mayo GAA U16 Poc Fada organised in May, with the winner going forward to Connacht GAA finals. Congrats to Mayo Hurler Cormac Phillips on winning Connacht this year.

**Club Go-Games:**

All 8 underage hurling clubs within Mayo GAA took part in Go-Games at U10 and U8 this year with over 300 children actively involved.

Padraic Carolan

Coaching Officer

## County Convention 2016 | Cumann na mBunscol Report



2015/16 was another very busy year with a range of activities from September right through to June. We have almost 150 participating schools.

### **Use of Pitches**

We are very grateful to the clubs all around the county who allow us to use their facilities free of charge. Our activities simply would not be possible without this.

This year saw the welcome return of our Divisional Finals in both hurling and football to Elverys McHale Park. These finals are our showpiece events and it is a great privilege to host them in our county ground. It is a wonderful opportunity for the children and schools involved. We are most grateful to the County Board for facilitating this and we would like to thank Phil Heneghan, who is always so accommodating.

Quiz Our quiz took place again this year in The Welcome Inn Hotel on January 20th. Congratulations to our winners, St Patrick's BNS, Castlebar. Thank you to Seán Mac Éil for his assistance.

### **Handball**

Competitions took place in January with 64 children across 15 schools participating. County winners went on to compete at provincial and All Ireland level. Thanks to An Sportlann for hosting and facilitating.

### **Rounders**

Rounders Introduction Days are ongoing with 456 children across 18 schools participating. Introductions Days are being held in Began CoE. We are hugely indebted to Billy McNicholas and

his coaches for supporting this endeavour. We intend to run Rounders blitzes and competitions in spring 2017 and we are planning a rounders exhibition during the National Football League.

## **Hurling**

As always, we are extremely grateful to Adrian Hession for his support. 34 schools are in receipt of coaching, and these schools participate in Cumann na mBunscol blitzes or competitions. 12 schools participated in camogie competitions. Congratulations to Scoil Padráig, Westport, Carracastle, Balla and Derrinabroc who won their respective divisions in the boys' competitions and to Tooreen and Kilmovee who won out in the girls' competitions. Thanks to Yvonne Byrne for helping with camogie.

The "First Hurley Scheme" is now in its fifth year with over 1,000 quality hurls distributed to children around the county at a very reasonable cost.

## **Mini 7s**

Our football Mini 7s finals were played in April in the Centre of Excellence. Congratulations to Crossmolina Boys and Quay Ballina Girls who were crowned champions.

Our Hurling and Camogie Mini 7s also took place in Began. Winners were Carracastle boys and Tooreen girls.

## **Football**

Our football finals were held in Elverys McHale Park over two days. These finals were the culmination of competitions which began in our nine local areas, the winners of which progressed through county quarter and semi-finals. Sincere thanks to all teachers who organised these competitions at local level and to those who helped on county finals day. We are hugely grateful to Billy McNichoals and his coaches for their help in running these very large competitions.

Congratulations to our football county champions for 2016:

Division (based on school size)

Boys Champions Girls Champions

5 Eachleim Gortjordan

4 Mount Pleasant Midfield

3 Bohola Aghamore

2B Balla Knock

2 Crossmolina Gaelscoil na Cruaiche

1B Culleens

1 Quay Ballina Quay Ballina

### **Exhibitions**

We ran football and hurling half-time exhibitions throughout the National Football League for all Mayo's home games. These are a very successful way of promoting our activities and a great opportunity for children to play in Elverys McHale Park in front of large crowds. We are very grateful to Padraic Carolan, Billy McNichoals and Adrian Hession, The County Board and all the teachers who make these exhibitions happen.

We fielded teams for the half-time exhibitions during the Mayo V Galway Connacht Semi-final and eight children represented their schools during the Connacht Football Final. Several children went on to play in exhibitions in Croke Park in both Hurling and Football throughout both All Ireland Championships.

Thank you to the County Board for providing playing gear for the children who participated in the Connacht Semi-Final.

### **Young Whistlers**

The children of Brackloon National School took part in the Young Whistlers Refereeing Programme. Thanks to Mel Kenny for his involvement. Pupils from the school officiated at exhibition games during the Connacht Football Championship and All Ireland Football Semi-finals.

Danny Charlton Cumann na mBunscol

## **Mayo Post Primary Schools Report**

Mayo Post Primary Schools organise football competitions in Grades A,B,C and D For First Year, Juvenile, Junior and Senior level along with Junior and senior Hurling Competitions totalling 18 competitions.

These competitions are run on a Blitz system in different geographical areas in groups of 3,4 and 5 with the winners reaching the final. Unfortunately we have not all our finals played due to Bord Na N-Og competitions which are still ongoing; especially Divisional competitions which are normally finished in mid September.

The competitions in Mayo give the schools a great opportunity to prepare teams for the Connacht Colleges competitions which commence later on in the year.

We still have to play and with the Connacht leagues and championships due to commence in early December we will struggle to complete all our finals before Christmas hopefully the Bord na N-Og officers will take note and try to ensure where possible that the Months of October and November are left free for school games.

I would like to thank the Centre of Excellence and all clubs who let us use their facilities in order To play our games; also all the referees who officiated at our games. Thanks also to the School Principals for allowing their students and teachers to participate and promote our games.

**Post Primary Competitions 2016**

Competition	Winner	Runner Up
1 <sup>st</sup> year A1	Rice College, Westport	St Gearlds, Castlebar
1 <sup>st</sup> year B	Gortnor Abbey, Crossmolina	St Joseph's ,Foxford
1 <sup>st</sup> year C	Balla Sec. School, Balla	St Tiernan's, Crossmolina
1 <sup>st</sup> year D	Colaiste Mhuire Tourmakeady	St Patrick's ,Lacken
O Haire A	Ballinrobe C.S. Ballinrobe	Rice College,Westport
Colleran D	Colaiste Mhuire Tourmakeady	Colaiste Chomain,Rossport
Flanagan B	Ballyhaunis C.S. Ballyhaunis	Sancta Maria,Louisburg
Flanagan C	St. Brendan's Belmullet	Scoil Phobail Achill
U-16 A Hurling	Ballyhaunis C.S Ballyhaunis	Rice College Westport
U-16 B Hurling	St Colman's College Claremorris	St Gerald's College, Castlebar

**Games still to be played**

O'Haire B	St Louis Kiltimagh	v	Ballyhaunis C.S.
O'Haire C	Our Lady's Belmullet	v	Balla Sec. School
O'Haire D	Colaiste Chomain Rossport	V	Colaiste Mhuire T/ makeady
Colleran A	St. Nathy's Ballaghderreen	v	Rice College Westport
Colleran B	St Louis Kiltimagh	v	St. Brendan's Belmullet
Flanagan A	Ballinrobe C.S.	v	Rice College Westport
Flanagan C	Gortnor Abbey Crossmolina	v	Davitt College Castlebar
Senior Hurling A	Teams Ballyhaunis C.S.		St Colman's College and St Gerald's C/Bar

## **HURLING REPORT 2016**

At intercounty level 2016 was a great year for our senior and U21 teams. Our senior team won the Nicky Rackard Cup final in Croke Park and our U21 team reached the All Ireland B final where they were defeated by Meath in Thurles. Both games were shown live on TG4 which was great exposure for Mayo Hurling.

### **SENIOR INTERCOUNTY**

Team Management: The management team of JP Coen (Manager) David McConn, Derek Walsh and Tommy Feeney were reappointed in 2016 and were joined by Liam Donoghue (Galway) as Coach.

### **COMPETITIONS:**

Connaught League: We played in the A Section with Roscommon, G.M.I.T. Galway and N.U.I.G. We had wins over Roscommon and N.U.I.G. and drew with G.M.I.T. in the final game. We lost out on winning the league on scoring difference.

### **NATIONAL LEAGUE**

We opened our Division 2B campaign with a home win against Donegal. In round two we travelled to Trim to play Meath. The team gave an excellent display to beat Meath. This was the first time in many years that Mayo had beaten Meath at home. Round three was another away game against Down in Newry. This is always a difficult venue to get a win but again the teams put in a great performance to come away with a win. Round four was a home game against Wicklow who had lost their three opening games. Hopes were high that a win would put the team on course for a league final. However, Wicklow had other ideas and we played poorly on the day allowing Wicklow to dominate the match and get their first win of the league. Our final game was an away trip to Armagh. Again, we did not play as well as in the first three rounds and a physically stronger Armagh team won and they went on to win the Division 2B league final.

Winning three games and losing two meant we finished in mid table and away from any relegation battle. After the great start in winning the first three matches the league campaign ended with some disappointment for the management and players.

### **NICKY RACKARD CUP**

After the disappointment of relegation from the Christy Ring Cup in 2015 the team and management set out their goal of winning the Nicky Rackard Cup and getting back up to Christy Ring. The preparations after the completion of the league in March and the first round of the Nicky Rackard on the 23<sup>rd</sup> April went well and the team approached the championship determined to achieve their goal.

The first round was an away game against Tyrone on the 23<sup>rd</sup> April. After a close first half the team played much better in the second half and ran out comfortable winners. Round two was a home game against Armagh which was played in Ballina. Mayo avenged their league defeat earlier in the season and won by 8 points.

Next up was a semi-final meeting with Donegal in Letterkenny. Donegal put up a determined challenge but Mayo won by 4 points in the end. The reward was a trip to Croke Park on the 4<sup>th</sup> June for the Nicky Rackard Cup Final against Armagh who had come through to the final despite us having beaten them earlier in the competition.

Confidence was high in the camp but we knew Armagh would be out for revenge and they had been beaten by Roscommon in last year's final. In a close fought game, Mayo's superior fitness showed in the second half and some late scores saw us win by 4 points.

This was a great occasion for Mayo Hurling and the players and management deserve great credit for their performances all year and achieving their goal in winning the Nicky Rackard Cup.

### **Nicky Rackard/Christy Ring - Promotion- Relegation Play Off**

Winning Nicky Rackard did not guarantee automatic promotion. Celebrations had to be cut short as we faced Derry the following Saturday 11<sup>th</sup> June. The team maintained their great run of form and won by 7 points to gain promotion back to Christy Ring for 2017.

### **Connaught Intermediate Final.**

This game v Roscommon was due to be played on Saturday 13<sup>th</sup> June before the Galway/Mayo Connacht Championship match in Castlebar. However, Roscommon were unable to field a team due to a clash with local championship games. It was not possible to get a suitable date to play the game later in the year. This was very disappointing for the Mayo team and we hope the competition will be played in 2017.

### **NICKY RACKARD ALL STAR TEAM**

Congratulations to the following players who were honoured with All Stars

- Cathal Freeman
- Kenny Feeney
- Brian Hunt
- Joseph McManus

Nicky Rackard Player of the year – Congratulations to Kenny Feeney who was picked as player of the year. This was a fitting tribute to Kenny for his great displays and scoring power throughout the Championship.

Overall 2016 was a great year for the Mayo Senior Hurlers. Winning an All-Ireland Title in Croke Park is a special occasion for players, management and supporters and will live long in the memory. Already the team management are putting plans in place for 2017 to ensure they build on the success of 2016.

### **U21 Team**

John Waldron, Donal O'Brien, Adrian Brennan and Austin Kenny were appointed as management team. The team included several players from the Senior panel.

Connacht Tournament sponsored by Jim Hogan Couriers Westport.

The Tournament was again hosted by Tooreen and Mayo played Roscommon in the final on the 22<sup>nd</sup> July. Mayo outclassed Roscommon and ran out easy winners with a great display of hurling and retained the cup for a second year.

### **B Championship:**

In the quarter final we travelled to Newbridge to play Kildare. The players put in a great display of skill and determination to win a low scoring game by 2 points. In the semi-final, we were drawn against Roscommon and the game was played in Elverys McHale Park on the 20<sup>th</sup> August. We met a much stronger and more determined Roscommon team but Mayo held their nerve to win by 1 point.

Mayo had reached their first final in eleven years against Meath in Semple Stadium Thurles on the 10<sup>th</sup> September and it was played prior to the U21 A Final. The players put in a huge effort and matched Meath for most of the game. However, some late scores by Meath saw them win by 8 points. This was not a true reflection on the performance of the team and they can be proud of their efforts. The game was shown live on TG4 and was a first for our U21 hurlers.

Congratulation to the players and management for their performances during the year.

One disappointing note was that several minor players who were good enough to be part of the team were not allowed play as the rules of the competition stated that players who were in the minor age bracket were not eligible. No doubt these players will be part of a successful team in 2017.

### **CELTIC CHALLENGE CUP.**

This was a new competition for 2016 confined to under 17 players and replaced the B & C All Ireland Championships.

The competition was a big step up from the C Championship with games against Roscommon and regional teams from Galway and Clare and the team were beaten in all the group games.

Unfortunately, we had to concede the playoff game against Wicklow due to injuries and unavailability of several players as there was a small panel of players.

The competition is being re-organised in 2017 and we hope to be more competitive in the group games.

### **POC FADA COMPETITION**

Congratulations to Bobby Douglas Tooreen who won the competition for the first time and Davog Frayne Tooreen who was runner up. Congratulations to Cormac Phillips Ballyhaunis who retained his U16 title.

### **CLUB COMPETITIONS**

Genfit League:

Four teams participated – Castlebar Mitchels Hurling, Ballyhaunis, Tooreen and Westport.

The competition was played on a round robin basis with Westport and Tooreen contesting the final and Westport won the title for the first time in 11 years. This competition is played without the County players.

### **Senior Hurling Championship sponsored by Jim Hogan Couriers.**

The four Senior clubs entered the competition. However, Westport withdrew from the competition after one match as they were unable to field a team. This was very disappointing for them as they had won the Genfit league earlier in the year. We hope that Westport will bounce back and field a senior team in 2017 as it is worrying for hurling in the county if there are only three senior teams.

Following Round Robin games Ballyhaunis went straight through to the Final. Second and third placed teams Tooreen and Castlebar played in the semi-final with Tooreen winning through to the Final. The Final between old rivals, Ballyhaunis and Tooreen was played on the 23<sup>rd</sup> October in Tooreen. After a hard fought and exciting game, it ended in a draw. The replay took place on the 30<sup>th</sup> October in Ballyhaunis and again after a great game Ballyhaunis won by 3 points. Congratulations to both teams for producing two high quality games of hurling.

## **Connacht Intermediate Championship**

Ballyhaunis had little time to celebrate as they faced Oran Roscommon on the following Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> November in the Connacht Centre Began under lights. Ballyhaunis produced a great display to beat Oran and reach the Connacht final against Ahascragh Fohonagh Galway on Sunday 6<sup>th</sup> November. Despite this being their fourth game in two weeks Ballyhaunis matched their Galway opponents and the game ended in a draw after extra time. The replay was played on Sunday 13<sup>th</sup> November and despite another great display by Ballyhaunis Ahascragh Fohonagh won the day. Congratulations to the Ballyhaunis players and management who represented the county so well.

## **Under 21 Championship**

Two teams participated; -

Tooreen defeated Castlebar Mitchels Hurling in the Final played on the 25<sup>th</sup> September.

### **Minor:-**

- Championship – Tooreen beat Caisheal Gaels
- League – Tooreen beat Caisheal Gaels.

### **Under 16**

- Championship – Westport beat Tooreen
- League – Tooreen beat Westport

Hurling PRO Brendan Geraghty is stepping down at the end of the year after 5 years in the post. I would like to thank Brendan for all his hard work over the years and no doubt he will stay involved in hurling at other levels.

Thanks To;-

- All Clubs at senior and underage for their commitment to hurling in Mayo.
- Referees who were always available to officiate at all levels
- County Board Chairman Michael Connelly and all County Board Officials for their continued support to hurling.
- Coaches who were involved with underage development squads.
- Mid-West Radio and local Newspapers for their coverage of games.
- Jim Hogan Couriers Westport for his sponsorship of the Tournament.
- Board Na nOg Iomani Officers for their work in organising underage competitions.
- Adrian Hession GPO for his commitment to schools coaching and organisation of development squads.
- John Hopkins Chairman Hurling Committee and Brendan Geraghty PRO for their work throughout the year.

Eoghan O’Conghaile

Runai

Coiste Iomani Mhaigh Eo

## Development Report 2016

In my 2<sup>nd</sup> year of development officer I would like to thank my committee of Cathy Carney, Gerry Burke, Gerry Henry, Padraic Corcoran, Peter Walsh, Padraic Prendergast and Peter Geraghty.

I wish the best of luck to clubs that are developing or upgrading their grounds and facilities this year and in the next few years.

Well done to clubs that received grants this year.

Well done to the grounds committee lead by Phil Heneghan and Gerry Burke for keeping McHale Park in such great shape through the season.

Thanks to clubs that have their 5 year plan up and running. It is hoped that more clubs would consider starting their plan in 2017. If any club needs any help in starting one don't hesitate to ask me for help.

Congratulations to Bonniclon on receiving club of the year. They have made huge improvements and have great work done in the club.

Good luck to clubs that are starting developments in 2017. You can contact me if you need any help or information on same.

I wish everyone a Happy Christmas and a peaceful New Year.

Liam O Ceallaigh  
Offigeach Forbartha

## Tuairiscáil an Rúnaí - Coiste Scór Mhaigheo 2016

### **Scór**

Scór in Mayo has had a good year with participation on the rise with 17 clubs taking part in at least one competition, the highest in all of Connacht

We hosted two information evenings for clubs one in January and one in October which were well attended and we are confident that Scór in Mayo is certainly moving in the right direction

### **Scór na nÓg:**

The season got underway with the Scór na nÓg competitions. The standard was quite high in a very entertaining County Final which was held in Breaffy GAA club house on Sunday, January 3rd

The **Connaught Scór na nÓg** final was staged again this year in the Claremorris town Hall on 17th January, Mayo's had winners with Kilfian in the Leiriú Stáitse, and Aghamore in the Rincé Seit

The **ALL Ireland Scór na NÓg** finals were held in An Óstán Gleann An Iolar, Cill Áirne Condae Ciarrai on Saturday 30th January with three Clubs representing Mayo. Kilfian in the Leiriú Stáitse, Ballycastle in Tráth na gCeist and the Aghamore in Rince Seit who Retained their ALL IRELAND title, comhghairdeas

**Scór na bPáistí:** Scór na bPáistí still has the highest entry of all three competitions and the County Final was held in the Breaffy on the 16<sup>th</sup> of April, before a packed audience I would like to compliment the teachers, parents and mentors for all the time they invest in preparing competitors for what was a County final of the highest standard.

**Scór Sinsir:** Scór Sinsir took place on the 12<sup>th</sup> of February in Braff and although the standard was high and a very entertaining evening was had by all present it is still behind in the amount of competitors competing.

The **Connacht Final** was held in Lecarrow, Co. Roscommon on the 28th of March. Unfortunately, luck seemed to evade us on that day

**Adjudication:** I want to take this opportunity to thank all those who make their services available to us as adjudicators. Everyone will agree that they do a superb job and while we all may have our own personal opinions, we are very fortunate to have such a panel of expertise that we can call upon.

**Stewards:** I want to thank all those who turn up to steward at the various Scór events. It is still great to see that so many people give freely of their services.

A special work of thanks to the Breaffy GAA club for hosting the three county finals this year, the various MCs, all those who contributed in any way to the success of Scór in the county over the past year.

I wish to pay tribute on a personal level to EVERYONE who has helped me in carrying out my duties over the past year as Cathaoirleach of Coiste Scór Mhaigheo.

Seamús MacGiobúin

# SCÓR 2016 Where the titles went.....

<b>Scór na bPaistí (Winners of County Final)</b>								
	Rince Fóirne	Amhránaíocht Aonair	Ceol Uirlise	Aithriseoireacht	Bailéad Ghrúpa	Rince Sean Nós	Nuachleas	Rince Seit
	Louisburgh N.S.	Breaffy N.S.	Scoil Raifteirí	Cloghans Hill N.S.	Cooneal N.S	Aghadh Mór N.S	Baile an Róba	Aghadh Mór N.S

<b>Scór na nÓg</b>								
	Rince Fóirne	Amhránaíocht Aonair	Ceol Uirlise	Aithriseoireacht	Bailéad Ghrúpa	Tráth na gCeisteanna	Nuachleas	Rince Seit
	Louisburgh	r Claremorris (Ava Fitzpatrick)	Achill	Davitts (Eilish McDermott)	Achadh Mór	<b>Achail</b>	Baile an Róba	AchadhMór

<b>Scór Sínsir</b>									
	Rince Fóirne	Amhránaíocht Aonair	Ceol Uirlise	Aithriseoireacht	Bailéad Ghrúpa	Tráth na gCeist	Nuachleas	Rince Seit	Sean Nós Dancing
	No Entries	Breaffy Oliver Kennedy	<b>Clár Chlainne Mhuiris</b> -	Kiltimagh (Emma Begley)		<b>Clar Chlainne Mhuiris</b>			Castlebar Mitchels (Daithí O Gallachóir)

## 2016 Ainmiuchain/Nominations

Patrún (Patron)	Padraic Ó Maolduin	Cathair na Márt
Uachtarán (President)	PS MacCraith	Cill Mheain
Cathaoirleach (Chairman)	Micheal O Conghaile	Maolla- Ceathrú Mór
(Vice Chairman)	Seamus Ó Tuathaigh	Bréachmaigh
Runaí (Secretary)	Uinsionn O Nearaigh	Muine Chonnalláin
(Assistant Secretary)	Diarmuid de Buitleir	Crois Mhaoilina
Cisteoir (Treasurer)	Caoimhin O Tuthail	Tuair Mhic Eadaigh
Cisteoir Cunta (Assistant Treasurer)	Gearoid Aodha	Maolla- Ceathrú Mór
Oifigeach Caidreamh Poibli (Public Relations Officer)	Pol O Cuinneain Na Daibheidi	
Ard Comhairle (Central Council Delegate)	Sean MacÉil	Cnoc Mór
Comhairle Chonnacht 1 & 2 (Connacht Council Delegate)	Gearoid De Burca Padraic Mac Niochlais	Breacmhaigh Coillte Mach
Oifigeach Leanáí (Children's Officer)	Padraic Breathnach	Cluain Cearbain
Oifigeach Cultúra (Cultural Officer)	Seamus Mac Giobúin	Leathardán
Oifigeach Forbartha Development	Liam O Ceallaigh	Cill Miodhna
Oifigeach Oiliuna (Coaching Officer)	Padraig Ó Cearúlláin	An Pháirc

# RUIN 2017

## **Motions 2017**

### **Club Championship**

1. That in Group stages of Mayo Senior, Intermediate and Junior Championships that in the interest of fair play games be played as follows  
  
Round 1. 2 Games with Home Venue  
  
Round 2 2 games with Home Venue. i.e. Teams that were away in round 1 are home in Round 2  
  
Round 3: 2 games at neutral venues. (Ballyhaunis)
  
2. That the CCC be permitted to use extra time in club championship Quarter and Semi Finals should the need arise. Clubs should be made aware of the possibility of extra time when fixtures are sent to clubs. (Davitts)
  
3. Championship Extra-Time  
That the quarter-finals in all championship games at senior, intermediate, Junior A, B and C and U21 would go to extra-time in the event of the two teams finishing level on the first occasion. (Kiltimagh)
  
4. Both teams which play in Junior County Final promoted to Intermediate, winner goes on to Connaught stages. (Kilmeena)

## **Fixtures**

5. That the County Cup be scrapped. (Davitts)
6. That clubs be fined for not fulfilling league fixtures. (Ballintubber)
7. That the Michael Walsh League be disbanded, in favour of a 14-game league season, comprising of two groups of eight at each level, and that seven of the games be starred, and each opposition played on a home and away basis. (Ballintubber)
8. If the above is not done, consider a two week break from all Mayo GAA club activity in late July or early August so all concerned can book holidays etc., without fear of a clash with fixtures. (Ballintubber)

## **U -21**

9. That the U21 Championship should be played midweek following, Senior, Intermediate and Junior Championship games. (Davitts)
10. That, in the event there are in excess of 32 competing Clubs, the 2017 competition be graded into 5 levels: a group of 8 at A level, a group of 8 at B level, a group of 8 at C level, a group of 8 at D level and the remainder at E level. At each of the A, B, C and D level, the teams be divided into 2 sections of 4 teams per section. Each team in each section to play all other teams once and each game to be played at a neutral venue. The top team and the team in second place go forward to the county semi-final. At E level the group arrangements to be left to the discretion of the CCC. (Kiltimagh)
11. That the U-21 championship be changed to a knock-out competition and be played early in the season, preferably before summer time. (Ballintubber)

## Other

12. That Mayo County Board appoint a full time commercial director with responsibility for all corporate, commercial and sponsorship income. (Charlestown)
13. Congress - That the referee in the All Ireland final not be from the same province or provinces as the competing counties. (Charlestown)
14. Make it compulsory for every GAA club to have a Defibrillator installed at their grounds. (The Neale)
15. Propose that a new subsection (h) be added to Rule 2 to read as follows,  
(h) subject to foregoing, all players over the age of 16 be entitled to free entry to all GAA Matches except Provincial/All Ireland Championship games and to facilitate that process, the official membership card should designate their status as "Players" (Breaffy)

## Hurling

16. The ability of players in their last year of minor (i.e. Under 18) may be permitted to play in the All-Ireland U21B and U21C Hurling Championships in 2017. Due to the B and C Intercounty competitions going to Under 17 solely, under 18 hurlers in the B and C hurling counties have no Intercounty team to continue playing hurling with. Coupled with the fact that State Exam students aren't permitted to play in the U-17 Celtic Challenge, some Intercounty players are restricted from playing intercounty hurling for two years in succession.

Hence Rule 6.17 should read as follows:

6.17

Age grades To be eligible for the Grades listed hereunder, a player shall meet the respective stated age criteria: (Tooreen)

### **Under 21:**

Club Be Under 21 years and Over 16 years

Inter-County Be Under 21 years and Over 18 years

Inter-County B and C Hurling Be Under 21 years and over 17 years.

17. The playing of Connaught Hurling Championship outside of Athleague (Tooreen)

## Voting

North	Allocated	West	Allocated
Ardagh	3	Achill	3
Adrnaree	3	Balla	3
Ballina Stephenites	3	Ballintubber	3
Ballycastle	3	Shane Quinn	1
Ballycroy	3	Breaffy	3
Belmullett	3	Gerry Bourke	1
Bonniconlon	3	Seamus Tuohy	1
Vincent Neary	1	Burrishoole	3
Crossmolina	3	Castlebar Hurling	3
Dermot Butler	1	Castlebar Mitchels	3
Mick Herr	1	Islandeady	3
Kilfian	3	Kilmeena	3
Killala	3	Willie Kelly	1
Kiltane	3	Louisburgh	3
Knockmore	3	John Gibbons	1
Sean McEil	1	Padraig Walsh	1
Lahardane	3	Parke	3
James Gibbons	1	Padraig Carolan	1
Lacken	3	Tuair Mhic Eadaigh	3
Moygownagh	3	Kevin O Toole	1
Cill Chomain	3	Westport	3
John Walker	1		
	54		47
Claremorris	3	East	Allocated
Davitts	3	Aghamore	3
Paul Cunnane	1	Ballaghderreen	3
Garrymore	3	Con Moynihan	1
John Farragher	1	Ballyhaunis	3
Shrule Glencorrib	3	Charlestown	3
Hollymount Carramore	3	Eastern Gaels	3
Michael Connolly	1	Ciarain Byrne	1
Ger McHugh	1	Kilmovee	3
Michael King	1	Kiltimagh	3
Kilmaine	3	Paddy McNicholas	1
Mayo Gaels	3	Bohola Moy Davitts	3
The Neale	3	Swinford	3
Johnny Hopkins	1	Vincent Walsh	1
		Tooreen	3
	33		34
Cumann na mBunscoil	1	Total electoral votes	
Post Primary	1	North	54
Handball	1	South	33
	3	East	34
		West	47
		Others	3
			171

